



Essex Firemen

Who Served Between 1900 and 1920

2nd Edition

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Brief Overview of The History of the Fire Brigade in Essex since 1900

Prior to 1937 there were 100 plus Fire Brigades in the Essex region and the standard of these brigades varied from large brigades which operated in the larger towns through to rural brigades which operated in villages. It was not until 1948 that Essex County Fire Brigade was formed. In the intervening years between 1937 and 1948 there became a more professional approach to fire fighting with all local authorities from Parish to County Councils required to make provision for properly organised Fire Brigades for their areas, as a result of the Air Raid Precautions Act 1937. Government also assisted with the sponsoring of the Auxiliary Fire Service to whom they provided equipment, including uniforms, pumps, ladders etc. but importantly NOT motor vehicles which resulted in many brigades using a variety of motor vehicles including cars and lorries which were converted into towing vehicles and fire appliances. Additionally a manual to standardise training across the brigades was introduced. This of course with the threat of war for the second time within 25 years hanging over the country....not only the threat but also the memory, and possibly the memory of some of the mistakes that had been discovered in the First World War in relation to the Fire Brigade.

Preparations for the First World War were not in the same league as those being undertaken in 1937, particularly as Firemen in the first war were not in a 'protected occupation' and not considered an important war service. As a result many of the 60 plus brigades lost many of their young and fit men to the armed services leaving, particularly from 1916, when men up to the age of 41 were being called up for armed service. This also did not take account of changing face of war, which eventually would include the bombing of civilians over many areas of the county by Zeppelins and Bombers of the German Air Force.

In the 1900's the Fire Brigades were in the main, voluntary organisations. There no legislation which would require a council, local or county to employ a fireman, leaving most of the onus of fire fighting to different Fire Insurance Companies. This gradually changed until councils took over the running of the volunteer Fire Brigade. On occasions employment of a resident fireman who with his family was accommodated in premises near to or adjacent to the Fire Station.

Sometimes, however, the volunteer fire brigades did not get on with the councils either because the councils did not take sufficient interest in the brigade or allegations were made against the brigade.

In 1901 there was some unpleasantness between the Hornchurch Fire Brigade and the Parish Council over the use of a new engine in pumping out a well over which the Fire Brigade tendered

their resignations. Eventually the Parish Council backed down and passed a vote of thanks for their past services and asked the Firemen to reconsider their resignations.

In 1905 three senior officers of the Colchester Corporation Fire Brigade, who had 51 years service between them, provisionally tendered their resignations as a protest against arbitrary regulations which they felt seriously impeded the efficiency of the brigade. They contended that it should not be necessary for the fireman at the Fire Station to have to wait until they have a formal summons from the Police before responding to a call.

In September 1910, again there was friction between a Council and Fire Brigade, this time in Shoeburyness where several councillors made allegations of drinking which had taken place at the Fire Station. Despite there being no evidence to support the allegations, Council Whent suggested that "if they did away with the drink trouble they would do away with all their troubles" and therefore he moved that no drink be allowed on the premises" Councillor Talmage said that such a resolution would suggest that the Brigade were guilty without being heard. The discussion was adjourned for evidence of the allegation to be produced by Councillor Brooks who had originated the allegation.

In 1907 Councillor Howitt stated in a Chelmsford Council meeting that the Fire Brigade was not efficient or drilled. This resulted in the Fire Brigade resigning enblock, also severing the electric alarm communications with their houses, leaving the council to find a completely new Fire Brigade, which resulted in a council advertisement for "young men who are desirous of joining the new fire brigade"

One of the other problems which affected the Fire Brigades during the early part of the 20th century was the lack of water with which to fight fires. Only a few locations (usually in the bigger towns) had fire hydrants from which water could be drawn, and even on the outskirts of towns this was not always the case, as can be seen from the following report in the Essex Newsman (Newspaper) in July 1910 :-

" Fire at Boreham"

"On Thursday afternoon some of the farm buildings of a Mr R Kently's Brent Hall, Boreham were set on fire by lightning. The Essex and Suffolk Fire Brigade (An Insurance Company Brigade) from Chelmsford attended with the engine, but as there was no water obtainable, the buildings consisting of a barn and some shedding were allowed to burn out. A quantity of chaff was also destroyed"

Training of Firemen during this period was not uniform throughout the different brigades and was often undertaken by the local Superintendent or deputy. However due to competitions between the brigades locally, regionally and nationally a reasonably high level of elementary training was undertaken. Competitions were judged by Senior Officers not only of the Brigade involved but also from other Brigades, thus ensuring a fair competition.

These competitions involved such events as one man drill, one man hydrant drill, two men hose cart and four men wet drill. Hose drill involved running out 50 feet of hose and fixing a standpipe branch, whilst use of escape involved running 20 feet to the escape ladder, mount the escape, pick up a man, carry down and place on ground, all which could be done in 2min 30secs. Each of these competitions involved prizes donated to the Brigade to the winners of individual events and included items such as a Shield and clock to the winner, a watch for the second place and an oil painting for third place.

The object of these competitions was threefold,

Firstly to increase the speed in dealing with fires.

Secondly to increase teamwork within the respective brigade.

Thirdly to show the general public the ability of the local brigade, particularly as the competitions took place during events to which the public attended such as fetes or local flower shows. E'spirit de corps was also encouraged by local brigade dinners during which long service awards of 10, 20 or 30 years service were presented to members of the brigade.

Whilst, as pointed out above, Fire Brigades were composed mainly of voluntary members, it was usual that each brigade had at least one full time member who was known as either the Superintendent or Resident Fireman, whilst the volunteer members would receive the uniform for free and money for attendance at drills and fire scenes.

Such was the background for the various fire brigades within Essex in the lead up to the declaration of War in 1914.

Initially at the outbreak of war the armed forces, in particular, consisted of volunteers which included several fireman from the different brigades in Essex, however by the latter part of 1915, it had become clear that the country could not rely for much longer on a supply of willing volunteers. Even though the minimum height requirement of the army had been reduced, it was still reckoned that there were about 5 million men who were of military age, who were not serving with the forces.

About this time, the seventeenth Earl of Derby, Kitchener's director of recruiting initiated a scheme in which all men between the ages of 18-41yrs would be invited to attest to their willingness to fight. He promised that married men would not be required to actually serve until the supply of single men had been exhausted. As a result married men lined up to declare their readiness to serve, safe under the guarantee given by Lord Derby, including several firemen from the Essex Brigades.

In January 1916, the Military Services Act introduced compulsory service for all single men between the ages of 18-41, apart from those doing work of national importance, the disabled, those able to show they were the sole means of support for their dependants and conscientious objectors.

A list was published showing the order in which men would be obliged to join up. The task of deciding who might have a valid excuse for not doing so was assigned to local committees, or

tribunals, across the country. Four months later conscription was extended to include married men.

The tribunals, which consisted of between five and twenty five local people drawn from the magistrature, councillors vicars and local tradesmen, were required to distinguish between those who should be obliged "to do their bit" and those who might be allowed to stay at home. Because of the number of casualties that were being caused by the war, these tribunals were now meeting several times a week and were making decisions in a matter of 10 to 15 minutes per man. Local tribunals were usually attended by a retired army officer who also entitled to appeal if he believed a man had been treated to leniently. As will be seen several firemen fell within these parameters, including a number who were killed in action.

Surprisingly, despite the fact that, for the first time in the history of warfare, civilians at home were being killed and injured and property was being damaged due to air raids by enemy airships and later long range bombers, Fire Brigades were not exempt from compulsory enlistment as the majority of them were volunteer organisations and their volunteers were employed in other occupations, yet such groups as attendants at seaside bathing huts escaped the services, because their work was said to promote public good health. The tribunals could give temporary extensions to allow employers to find other people to take the place of those who had to enlist.

The following pages will examine some of the Firemen who were involved in the Brigade during World War 1 including their occupations, whether they were exempted from service and if so the reason for their exemption if known or whether they enlisted in the Armed Services and if so, what happened to them.

Barking

History of Barking Fire Brigade

In 1873 Barking Vestry was considering the purchase of fire-fighting hoses. A volunteer fire brigade is first mentioned in directories in 1886. A new fire-station, adjoining the town hall, was opened in 1894, and in 1897-8 the council bought a steam fire-engine. By 1935 there were 25 permanent and 8 part-time firemen.



Barking Fire Brigade with Horse drawn Steamer

John Farmery

Chief Officer 1904-1906

See Ilford Fire Brigade

William Edward Newhouse

William Edward Newhouse as born in 1884 in Kennington London to Thomas (a Machine Printer) and Emma.

In 1901 he was married to Harriet Nellie Forrest, a widow of 29, her father being Thomas (a fishmonger) In the 1911 census he his living with his wife at 23. East Street, Barking. His occupation is a boot maker and has two daughters, Dorris Newhouse and Queenie Newhouse.

In August 1920 he was summoned for keeping a car without a licence in Chelmsford on 21st March and was found guilty after a trial being fined £10.00.

At sometime during the war he joins the Fire Brigade and on 20th November 1920 he is awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire, the citation reading "*For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a munitions factory.*"

William died on the 13th August 1959 in Lambeth, Greater London.

William Richard Arnold

Born 1874 to Richard Arnold (a labourer) and Betsy nee Fields. Married in April 1900 to Alice Emily nee Smith and has one son William Richard, and one daughter Alice

In 1901 he is a brick layer but by the 1911 census he is shown as being a Club Steward, Living at 24 East Street, Barking.

At some time he becomes a fireman at Barking and on the 20th November 1920 he is awarded medal of OBE , at which time he is living at 24 East Street, Barking. The citation for his medal reading "*For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a munitions factory*" (*Chelmsford Chronicle 19th November 1920*)

In 1934 he became the owner of Swan and Sugar Loaf Public House. The pub was just by the Dockhead fire station that featured in "London's Burning" and has now become a block of apartments.

On the 17th November 1939 he dies at Guys Hospital, at which time his address is the Swan and Sugar Loaf, 55, Dockhead, Bermondsey. Effects to Alice Emily and William Richard Arnold, Public House Manager.

Edward James Abbott

Born in 1881 in Hanwell, Middlesex to Walter (a Storekeeper) and Georgina nee Lee, he had in total, 10 siblings, Alice Maud, William E, John Nash, Myra Kate, Marina H, Ernest M, Bertram L, Raymond J, Archibald G and Dora B. He was baptised on the 12th April 1881 at the parish church

of St John, Ealing. His mother Georgina dies in 1896. In 1901 he is living in Hanwell, Middlesex with his father and 4 of his brothers and sisters at 27 Church Road North, and his occupation is a plumber. However in the third quarter of 1908 he marries Janet McKenzie in Greenwich and a year later on the 5th July 1909, his father Walter dies.

In the 1911 census he has become a fireman and is the Foreman Fireman at Bromley in Kent, living at 4 Fire Station, Bromley, Kent and has a daughter Nettie who is 3 months old.

In 1913 he replaces G Gallaway, upon his taking up the post of Superintendent of the Ipswich Fire Brigade, as the Chief Officer of Barking Fire Brigade. In the same year he is the starter at the Fire Brigade competitions held in at the recreation ground Chelmsford.

In 1917 he, together with his brigade attend a fire at the Ajax Chemical works in Barking, in which 13 women are suffocated to death. The Chelmsford Chronicle newspaper report of the coroner's inquest shows that in his evidence, Edward had penetrated the building as soon as he could, and recovered 3 bodies and having got his smoke helmet he recovered five or six more before he was overcome by the smoke. He told the court that the means of escape was adequate, but the women had been suffocated and had no chance from the fire. Eight or nine bodies were huddled together near to the staircase of the premises.

For his action at the Ajax Fire, in 1918 he was awarded the Kings Police Medal for *'service at a factory when a number of women lost their lives'* and in 1920 he was awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire for *"Conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a munitions factory"*

In 1936 whilst attending a fire at the factory of W.Wane and Co. rubber manufacturers at Barking, when 5 of his officers were taken to hospital and two of whom were seriously burned, after the roof of the building crashed in causing a column of smoke to rise 200 feet in the air, Edward refuses to go to hospital although he has received serious burns to his hands and face, until the outbreak was under control. Even with the assistance of three fire brigades and the London Salvage Corps, the store was destroyed.

In 1938 he retires from the Barking Fire Brigade and dies on the 19th December 1947 at Chatham in Kent.

John Charles Pemberton.

John Charles was born to William Pemberton and Esther nee ,xz`` in Southwark in 1861.

In 1883 he married Elizabeth Ann Lewis at St Olave church Southwark. He had a variety of jobs, in 1881 he was a store keeper (factory worker) but 10 years later he is shown in the 1891 census as a fishmonger employing one shop assistant. However by 1901 he has become a

Groom/Horsekeeper for the Barking Urban District Council and is living at the Horsekeeper's Cottage, Town Yard, East Street, Barking.(which supplied horses for the Fire Brigade)

In 1905 John was the first person to discover the Resident Fire Engineer, James Burrell, in the Engine House. Burrell had taken oxalic acid in an effort to commit suicide, which he succeeded in doing, the reason for which was unknown.

At the outbreak of war John remained with the Fire Brigade and attended serious fires, including one at a munitions factory for which on the on 20th November 1920, whilst still living at the Council Cottages, East Street, Barking, Fireman John Charles Pemberton was awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire. The citation for the medal read "For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a munitions factory"

He died on 12 May 1941.

Francis Charles Wilson

Francis Charles Wilson, latterly known as "Charlie" was born on 27th May 1881 in the Romford district of Essex to Francis Andrew Wilson and Rose Wilson nee Hunt. At the time of his birth he had an elder sister Maria. By the time of the 1891 census he had two further brothers, James and John, and in 1891 he was living with his family in Orchard Avenue, Barking.

On 3rd November 1901 he married Ellen Elizabeth Bond at Barking Essex and in 1905 his daughter Eleanor was born, followed 4 years later by another daughter Maud Elizabeth.

In 1911 he is living at 18 St Annes Road, Barking where he was to remain for many years, and his occupation is shown as a Blacksmith.

The date he joined the the Barking Volunteer Fire Brigade is unknown, however he was certainly a member in World War 1 and attended an explosion at a local TNT producing factory at a local factory in 1918 for which he was awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire, the citation of which read "*For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a motions factory*". He was also awarded two long service medals, one for 10 years service with a 5 year bar and the other for 20 years service with a 5 year bar.

In 1939. He was still living at 18 St Annes Road Barking with his wife and daughter Maud who is shown on the 1939 register as 'incapacitated' but does not say why. His occupation is now shown as an Engineering fitter and it is known from other records that he was working at the Power Station.



Francis Charles Wilson, Barking Fire Brigade

His wife Ellen dies in 1958 and he survives her by 17 years, dying on the 19th February 1975 in Barking, at which time he was living at Mayflower House, Westbury Road, Barking, his effects amounting to £12,594.



Medal of the Order of the British Empire



10 year long service medal and 5 year Bar



20 year long service medal and two 5 year Bars

William John Wade

William John Wade was born on 19th October 1881 to William Wade, a beer retailer and his mother Jane.

By 1901 he was living at the "Barge Aground" Public House and was working as a Barman at his Father's Public House. He had three younger siblings, brother John who was born in 1885, sister F Wade who was born in 1887 and brother Albert Wade born in 1889.

By 1911 he had married Hannah May and had two sons William Foster who was three years of age and John, who was 6 months. At this time he had also taken over the licence of the "Barge Aground" from his Father.

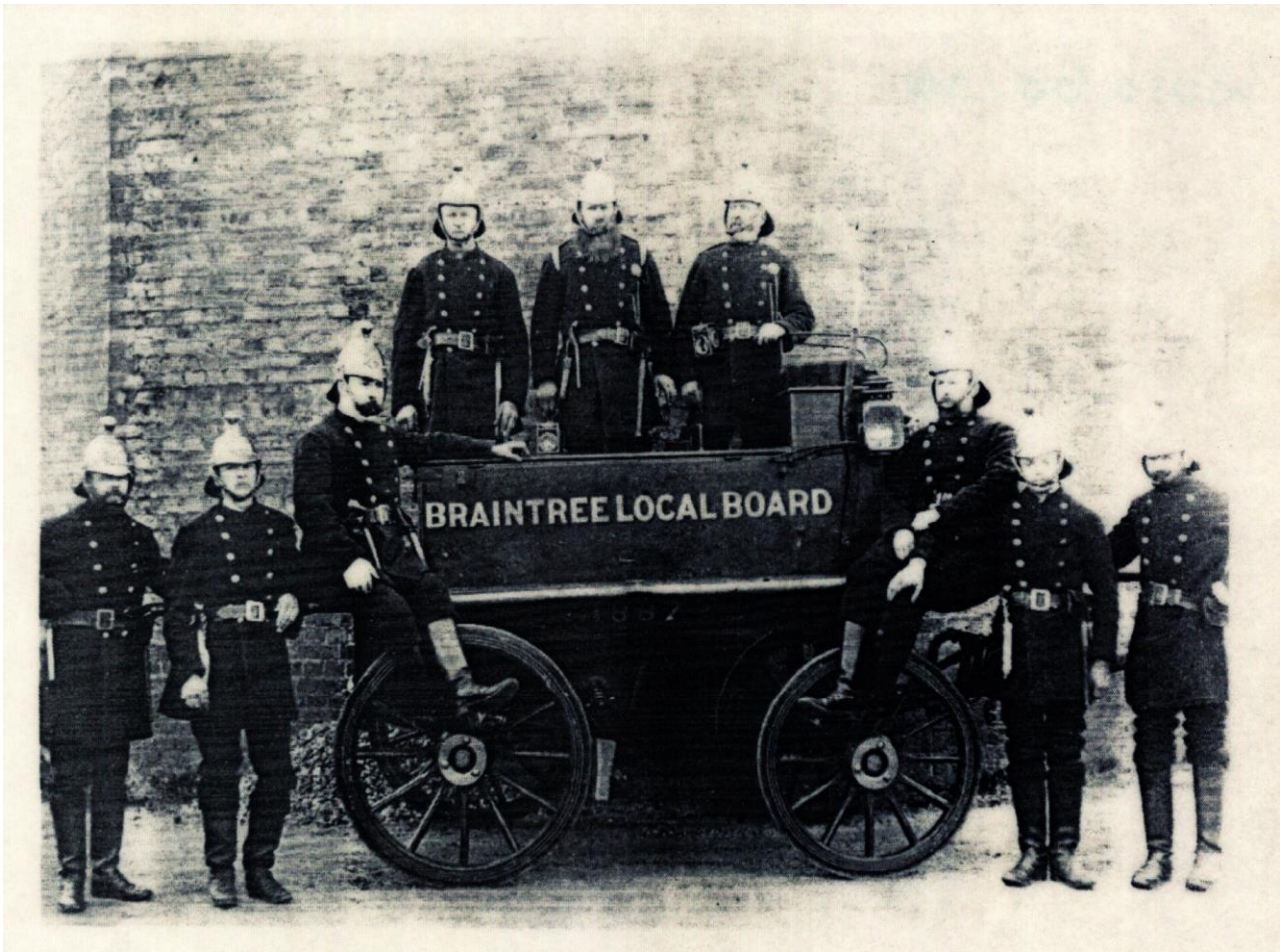
In 1912, William John, who was the licensee of the "Barge Aground" was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor on Sunday. April 21 1912 during prohibited hours and also for opening his premises at the same time for which he was fined £5.00 and costs of £3.3s

It is not known when he joined the Barking Volunteer Fire Brigade but at the outbreak of World War 1 he did not enlist. However it is known that he was a member of the Barking Fire Brigade when he attended the fire at the Ajax Chemical Factory, which was operating as a Munitions factory when 13 women were killed in the fire. In 1920 he was awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire for "Conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a munitions factory"

By 1939 he has become the licensee of the "Boarder" P.H. And has two further sons, Thomas who was born on 5th May 1912 and who is shown on the 1939 register as an invalid and Frank who was born on 25th August 1913 who is an assistant manager of the Public House.

Very few details of William John and it is not known when he left the Fire Brigade or when he died.

Braintree



Leonard Butcher

Leonard Ernest was born in Bocking, Essex to George T Butcher (a green grocer) and Adeline He has two sisters, Minnie and Beatrice and 3 brothers, Sidey, Horracc and Frank. When born his family were living at High Street, Braintree where his father had a shop, and in 1901 Leonard has become an agricultural worker.

In 1910 he marries Emma Mixter and in 1911 census he can be found living at 40 Bank street, Braintree, his occupation being a House painter journeyman.

In 1912 he joins the Braintree Fire Brigade as in In March 1932 he is awarded a silver medal for 20 years service with the brigade. He does not enlist but remains with the brigade throughout the war.

In April 1945, his wife Emma dies at the William Julien Courtauld Hospital in Braintree, his address at this time being 30 Coronation Avenue, Braintree. On 29th October 1966 Leonard dies at Broomfield Hospital, his home address at this time being Millard House, 364 Church Street, Bocking, Essex, a residential home.

Harry Coote

Harry was born in 1870 to George, an agricultural labourer, and Ann and can be found living in Shalford Road, Panfield. In 1892, he married Lillian Townsend at Braintree and moved to Braintree, In 1906 there is a report in the Chelmsford Chronicle that one of his sons, Albert who is 11 years of age, falls from an Elm Tree in Manor Street, Braintree, upon which he was swinging at a height of 14 ft and breaks his arm and splits his lip. In the census of 1911 the family, which consists of two sons Percy and Albert and one daughter Muriel can be found living at 102 East Street, Braintree and Harry and is a warehouseman, in an Iron Mongers, Messrs Critall and Winterton. He was also a fireman with the local brigade and in 1909 he attended the funeral of George Nicholas Dunlop, a former captain of the Braintree brigade. In 1912 he becomes a bell ringer at the local church.

At the outbreak of war he does not enlist, but remains a fireman in the Braintree brigade. In December 1920 he specially distinguished himself at a fire when, together with Fireman Butcher they tied themselves together and wore smoke masks to find fire in the premises of Messrs Footman and Co, drapery shop in Bank Street, Braintree.

In February 1925 he is presented with his 15 year bar to his bronze medal and at the same time his son Percy is presented with his ten year long service Bronze medal.

In 1931 he attends the funeral of Frederick Rudkin, former captain of the Brigade, and at this time he has been promoted to Chief Fireman.

Tragedy in his own family unfortunately soon follows as on 1st October 1936 he attends the funeral of his own son Percy, who is the Superintendent of the Braintree Brigade and who had died at a fire drill, by falling from a fire escape chute, during practice. Harry's health's already failing and becomes much worse after the death of his son, Percy, and on Friday 4th November 1936 he dies at 19 St Mary's Road, Braintree, leaving a widow, Lillian and one son, Albert, and one daughter, Muriel.



Superintendent Percy Coote

Charles Ernest Suckling

Born to Henry Charles Suckling and his wife Annie in 1878, the 1911 census shows that he is single and still living them at Francis Villas, Railway Street, Braintree. and his occupation is a House Decorator.

In 1909 he becomes a Fireman at Braintree and on the 4th August 1914, the day of the outbreak of World War 1 he enlists in the Essex Regiment, his regimental number 138281 and he holds the rank of Private. He is posted on the 5th August 1914 at Chelmsford with a category Bii rating. At this time he is living at 75 Railway Street, Braintree.

Later in 1915 he is posted to the Norfolk area where he undertakes patrol duties. It is as a result of lying on rough ground during these duties that he later suffers Rheumatism in his legs, which is aggravated by wet weather.

Posted to France, embarking at Folkestone on 14th September 1917 disembarking on same date in Boulogne. He joined the 151BD Calais on 16/9/17 and was posted to 13th Battalion Essex Regiment on 20/9/17.

The 13th (Service) Battalion (West Ham) was formed on the 27 December 1914 by the Mayor and the Borough at West Ham and then moved to Brentwood. On the 1st July 1915 it was taken over by the War Office and then moved to Clipstone as part of the 100th Brigade of the 33rd Division and then moved to Perham Down, Salisbury Plain. On the 17.11.1915 the regiment was mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne and on the 22.12.1915 the regiment was transferred to the 6th Brigade of the 2nd Division and moved to Bethune and by the time Charles was posted to it, the regiment had been engaged in various actions on the Western front including in 1916; The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of the Ancre, and Operations on the Ancre.

In 1917, the 13th Battalion was engaged with the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Arleux, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, and on the 30th November 1917, Charles is reported as Missing in Action and is later reported as being a Prisoner of War in the Battle of Cambria. He is held as a prisoner of war until the 24/12/18.

He is returned home on the 25 December 1918 and is suffering from Rheumatism sustained as a result of lying rough on patrol duty on East Coast of Norfolk and Shell Shock sustained as a result of heavy shelling on 26th November 1917, 4 days before he is reported missing in action and taken prisoner of war. He is eventually granted a 20% disability by the Army Medical Board and receives a pension.

He is awarded Victory medal and British medal and he dies in December 1947 at the age of 70.

Arthur Richardson

Arthur Richardson was born in 1879 in Braintree to Henry Richardson, a Road Labourer for the Board of Health, and Elizabeth nee Nash, his mother. At the time of his birth he had six elder

siblings, Herbert, Henry, Ethelinda, Susannah, Lavinia and Selina and the family are living in Quilberry Lane Braintree.

By 1901 he is still living with his family and his occupation is a bricklayer, however in 1902 he marries Elizabeth Rudkin in Braintree and moves to 39 Notley Road, Braintree

By the census of 1911, he has a son Leslie William 2yrs and a daughter Olivia May 6mths. He also has two boarders and his occupation is a painter.

During the First World War he does not enlist but in 1915 he joins the Braintree Volunteer Fire Brigade remains in the Fire Brigade, throughout the war, attending fires some of which have been caused by Zeppelin raids over Braintree.

After the war he remains in the Brigade and in February 1925 Arthur became entitled to a Bronze long service medal for 10 years service with the Braintree Brigade, however, later the same month on the 24th February, he dies at the age of 48 years following a seizure. In addition to his Fire Brigade work he had also held the office of 'Primo' in the Braintree Buffaloes, of which he was one of the oldest and most active members.

In 1924 he had established the record of making the highest collection for the poor childrens' Christmas treat provided by the Buffaloes

Albert George Welstead.

Albert was born in 1867 to George Welstead, a Chelsea Pensioner who was 57 years of age when Albert was born and. Eliza. He was the only boy and had 5 sisters Eliza, Mary, Alice, Emma and a younger sister Elizabeth.

His father had been born in 1810 in Ardley in Essex and had joined the Sixteenth Regiment of Foot in 1826 at the age of 16 leaving the service in 1850. In 1881 the family are residing at 13 Martin's Gardens, Braintree.

By 1891 his father has died and whilst the family are living in the same house, Albert has become a Brushmaker.

In 1890 Albert had joined F company 2nd Volunteer Battalion. Essex Regiment where he remained for several year becoming a corporal in 1893.

Albert was also an active sportsman playing football for the Bushmakers team and was captain of the team when they lost by two goals to the Bootmakers team in 1892.. He was also involved in athletics and in 1891 came third in the 150 yards members hurdle race at the Braintree Athletic Club.

In 1892 he has married Hannah Marin E Woodrow at Braintree

In 1894 he was appointed to fill a Vacancy in the Braintree Volunteer Fire Brigade. In 1907 he is appointed to the position of Chief Fireman and in 1911 he is living at Cresting Villas, Rayne Road, Braintree and his occupation is a Brushmaker Pan Hand.

In 1912 he gave evidence to the Coroner's Court when his sister Emma committed suicide thinking that she had skin cancer of the face.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he remains with the fire brigade. It is not known when he leaves the Brigade but has certainly done so by 1936 when he attends the funeral of Supt Percy Coote of the Braintree Brigade, as in the newspaper report of the event he is referred to as a "former fireman"

In 1939 his wife Hannah dies at the age of 74 after a long illness.

Albert dies on the 19 November 1955 at St Michaels Hospital Rayne Road, Braintree, his home address being 65 Rayne Road, Braintree. As he had no children his effects were left to Nora Agnes Emily Cornell, a married woman.

Berden

Herbert Knayston Hudson

Herbert was born on the 19th September 1864 in the City of London to Edward Taylor Hudson and Sarah Ann nee Fraser. He was baptised on 30th October 1864 at St Nicholas, Cole Abbey, London. At this time his father was a Clerk in Holy Orders and was 3rd Master at St Paul's

School. He was baptised by Rev. H Knayston DD, who was obviously a family friend as his surname is used as a second name for Herbert.

In 1884 he attends Oxford University where he obtains a Bachelor of Arts and his father is deceased.

By 1891 he is married to Caroline Emma and is living at 70 Eccles Road, Battersea. He has two daughters Florence and Winifred Bessie and his occupation is a Principle of a Private School

By 1901 he has become a clergyman in the Church of England and he and his family have moved to the vicarage at Berden.

In November 1907 he is secretary of the St Albans (Diocesan) Plain Song society, which hold services at St Margarets School Chaple, Bushey and at Scrub End, Colchester.

In 1910 he started the the Berden Fire Brigade, after a serious fire on the night of Good Friday 25th March 1910. The nearest Fire Brigade was was the Bishop Stortford Fire Brigade was over 7 miles away, and were not on arrival, able to salvage much. This led to the Vicar to set up a Fire Brigade in Berden and a small fire engine was purchased from Thaxted Parish Council, and on the 1st July a Fire brigade consisting of a manual fire engine, one Chief Officer and three men came into existence.

By the 1st October he had obtained a 16ft 'pompiere' ladder and seven extra men and boys had been enrolled in the brigade. On October 5th the Fire Brigade was admitted into the National Fire Brigade's Union as a recognised fire brigade.



H.K.Hudson

In 1911 he is still living in Berden and the only child who is still living at home is Winnifred Bessie who is 20 yrs of age

By August 1918, Carolin, his wife must have died, as he marries Marion Bonnett, the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J Bennett, formerly of the Manor House, Cowbarton, Cambridgeshire.

On St Nicholas day, 1919 Herbert revives the old custom of "Boy Bishop" and a Master Harry Lawrence was chosen to be the bishop, who was duly invested with the Robes, Mitre and Pastoral Staff of a Bishop.

In 1926 he attends the funeral of Samuel Davis, Captain of the Romford Brigade.

In 1931 he was inducted as Warden of the Incorporated Guild of Church Musicians, and in 1933 he attends the annual dinner of the Stansted Fire Brigade where he performs two humorous songs and made an amusing speech.

By 1945 he has retired and has moved to Wadham West, Mersea, and on the 14th October he dies at Wadham West, with probate going to his son who is now also a Vicar.



Berden Fire fighting Equipment



Rev H.K. Hudson with pump

Bocking

Harry Bearman

Harry was born in 1858 to Harry Bearman, a licensed victualler at the Six Bells Inn, Beaufort Street, Bocking and Catherine nee Cook. He had two elder sisters Frances E and Alice E and by 1861 he had a younger brother Robert.

In 1868 his mother Catherine dies at the age of 40 and later the same year his father marries Ellen Ling, and his father's occupation is a Master Baker. In 1871 the family are living in Bradford Street, Bocking. Ten years later Harry is still living with his family in Bradford Street and his occupation is a Baker.

In 1883 Harry marries Ellen Thompson in the Braintree Registration District of Essex. In 1891 Harry is living at Bradford Street and his occupation is a Baker and Confectioner and has a daughter Constance and three sons, Augustus, Arthur H and Herbert C, and the family have a servant Kate Osbourne aged 13 years.

By 1901 the family are still living in Bradford Street, Bocking and he now has another daughter, Hazel aged 6. Ten years later, Harry and his family are still living in Bradford Street.

In 1904 Harry tenders to supply the Union House in Braintree at 4d per loaf of bread, which is accepted.

By 1910 Harry had become a member of the Bocking Fire Brigade and is present when the Brigade is presented with a new Fire Engine by Mr W.J. Courtald.

Harry does not enlist in the armed services in World War 1 but his son Augustus joins the Royal Flying Corps and in 1916 he transfers to the Notts and Derby Regiment (the Sherwood Foresters) as a private infantryman and on 27th February 1918 he was Killed in Action in France, his regimental number being 72352 (formerly 38956 RFC).

Herbert Charles another of Harry's sons also joins the army in the Army Service Corps in November 1915, his regimental number being 04705. He served in Alexandria and suffered several bouts of Malaria, which resulted in him being hospitalised on several occasions. He was compulsorily transferred to 1/5th Essex Regiment on 16 April 1918 and was released from the army in 1919.

Harry remains a baker during the war, and also a member of the Bocking Fire Brigade, and there were changes in the way breads sold during the War. Instead of paying by loaf, it was sold by weight. For instance if a loaf was supposed to weigh two pound and it fell short the shop had little squares of bread about two inches across, which were called makeweights. Usually only one was required. At this time it was usual for children to fetch the bread from the bakers and it was quite normal for them to eat the makeweight on the way home. Any left over bread would be sold the next day as stale bread. One it was too hard to be sold it would be made into bread pudding or sold as 'crumb' to butchers to baulk out their sausages.

It is not know when Harry left the Fire Brigade however he died on 25th May 1932 whilst living at 11 Fairfield Road, Braintree, with administration of his will going to his wife Ellen Bearman and his sons Arthur and Herbert, both of whom were Bakers.

Sidney James Bedlow

Sidney James Bedlow was born in 1880 in Colchester to Arthur, Foreman railway porter at North Station, Colchester and Mary nee Lawrence and the family are living at at 4 Essex Hall Road, Colchester. The following year in 1881, he has a younger brother Frank.

By 1891 his father has died and his mother is the head of the household and Sidney now has a sister Annie who was born in 1894, and a younger brother Arthur, who was born in 1895, and the family have moved to Coggeshall Road, Braintree.

On 15th January 1899, Sidney marries Elizabeth Rayner at St Mary's Parish Church, Bocking, and moves to Church Street, Bocking and by 1901 he has a son Sidney who is 2 years of age. Sidney's occupation is a coloured silk dyer.

In 1911 he is still living in Church Street, Bocking and examination of the census for that year shows the Sidney and Elizabeth have had another child who has died. In the same year he is also appointed as a fireman, together with G.Kent, to the Bocking Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Unfortunately, their appointment caused dissention amongst the members of the current brigade, as a result of which a number of the brigade members resign including the Superintendent of the Brigade T.W. Moore and two firemen A Hunnable and R Bearman. Consequently by 1912 there is a new Superintendent, R. Field, has been appointed and Sidney has been promoted to Foreman. By 1914 Sidney has been promoted again to Captain of the Bocking Brigade. He leaves his position in 1922 when H Lawrence becomes Captain of the Brigade.

Sidney has a long life after leaving the Brigade and dies at the age of 89 in 1968. Unfortunately his son Sidney Arthur, who has moved to the Wirral area of Cheshire dies in 1959, after serving in as deputy superintendent of Birkenhead's air raid precautions rescue parties during World War 2 and winning the British Empire Medal for a number of hazardous rescues. Sidney was survived by his wife Elizabeth who dies in 1979 at the age of 99yrs.

George Kent

George was born in 1880 in Pelham, Norfolk to William Kent, an agricultural labourer and Elizabeth nee Blowers. George was a twin, with his other twin being Anna, however both twins have elder siblings, Jane, Rose, Sarah and John. In 1881 the family are living in the Street, Pelham St Mary the Virgin, Depwade, Norfolk. By 1891, the family have moved to Harwich in Essex and William, George's father has become a pier labourer. George has a further three siblings, Eliza, Jane and William and the family have a lodger, Rebecca E Baker.

On 14th January 1903 George marries Alice Rankin at St Mary's Parish C Bocking, Essex and moves to Church Street Bocking Essex and by 1911 he has three children, Ezra, Jack and Stanley, and his occupation is a Silk and Cotton Dyer. In the same year he joins the Bocking Fire Brigade. Their appointment caused dissention amongst other members of the Fire Brigade, to

such an extent that the Superintendent and 3 firemen resign. George was put in charge of the Fire Engine.

In 1913 he participates in a shooting competition at the Bocking Factory Rifle Club, held at the Braintree Silk Mill and won a table lamp.

During World War 1 he enlists in the Territorial Battalion of the 5th Essex Regiment, his regimental number being 1528 and his rank was a private. On 12 February 1915 he received a gunshot wound to his right arm and on the the 15th February 1915 he was transferred to sick convey on board Hospital Ship Carisbrook Castle.

Between 1918 and 1929 George and his family live at 9 Tower Cottages, High Garrett, Bocking and in 1930 he moves to 159 Church Street, Bocking.

In 1937 George attends the funeral of a former Bocking fireman, Harry Smith of Church Road, Bocking, who had died at the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, aged 53 yrs.

George dies in 1949 at his home 'Rustic Cottage', Bocking. In addition to being involved with the Bocking Fire Brigade he was also connected to the British Legion and the RAOB and had been employed for 40 years at Courtaulds. He is buried at St Mary's Bocking on 24th April 1949.

Henry Lawrence

Henry was born in 1876 in Panfield, Essex, to Peter Lawrence, an agricultural labourer and Emma nee Thorogood. At the time of his birth he had four elder siblings Charles, James, Mary A and Ellen. In 1881 the family are living in Top Street, Panfield and Harry has a younger sister, Alice. Ten years later the family are still living in Panfield and Harry at the age of 15 has become an agricultural labourer.

By 1901 Harry has become an engineer's labourer and is living as a boarder with the Steans family in Kennilworth House, St Johns Road, Wembley. On 18th May 1892 he marries Florence Elizabeth Steans, the daughter of his employer and with whom he was boarding at St John's Church, Wembley, Middlesex, His occupation at the time of his marriage is an engineer. After his marriage he moves to Elspeth Road, Wembley, where in 1903 his son John Henry is born and in 1905 another son, William James is born. He moves shortly after the birth of William to 38 Ridley Road, Enfield, Middlesex where in 1906 his wife gives birth to his daughter Constance Emily. In 1907 his son Frank Norman is born. In January 1909, his daughter Constance dies, and the following year his daughter Blanche Lilian is born.

By 1911 he has again moved, this time to Church Road, Bocking and has employment as a Mill Hand Silk Boiler in Courtaulds factory in Braintree. The following year in 1912 his son Cecil Leonard is born.

At the outbreak of World War 1, he does not enlist in the armed services and in 1917, he is appealed for by the Army and attends a County Tribunal where he is allowed exemption to 30th September. There is no further reference to him in relation to his enlistment.

It is not known when Henry joined the Bocking Volunteer Fire Brigade, but in 1922 he becomes Captain of the Brigade and remains in charge of the Brigade until December 1933 when the Bocking Fire Brigade joins with the Braintree Brigade.

Florence his wife dies in 1938 and Henry dies in 1955 at the age of 77 yrs in Bocking.



Captain H Lawrence and Brigade members with motor engine

Brentwood

Brentwood Fire Brigade

The Brentwood Fire Brigade was formed in 1883 and consisted of six men with a horse drawn manual fire engine. The fire station was situated in Back Street, Brentwood and included a mortuary. In 1897 the brigade received its first steam engine courtesy of J.C. Tasker. In 1948, when Essex County Council took over from the National Fire Service, the Brentwood brigade was operating from requisitioned buildings in North Road. The County Council bought the North Road premises in 1952 and built a new fire station there in 1974.

Frederick William Purchase

Frederick William Purchase was born on 20th February 1876 in Buttevant, Cork, Ireland, to John Purchase and Margaret (nee Beer), He was born into a military family as in 1891, he is residing at military married quarters in Warley in Essex. He was the eldest of 4 brothers and 2 sisters, one of brothers, Ernest John, being born in 1884 and dying in 1892, in Warley, Essex.

After schooling, at the age of 18 he joins the Essex Regiment on the 8th May 1894 and in 1899 he is posted to the second Boer War in South Africa with his regiment. Whilst he is away in South Africa, his father John dies in 1900. During the time he is out in South Africa, he is promoted to Corporal and is awarded the Queen's medal with two clasps showing the campaigns with which he had been involved. These were the Orange Free State Clasp, and the Transvaal Clasp, he was also awarded two date clasps, these being the 1901 and 1902 clasps and the South African Campaign medal.

After serving in South Africa, he returns home. It is not known when he leaves the army but he does also receive the Long Service and good Conduct medal.

In Jan 1913 he marries Alice E Matthews at St Thomas's Church in Brentwood, and has at some time, joined the Fire Brigade at Brentwood. After his marriage is is living at 32 Alfred Road, Brentwood.

In 1914 at the outbreak of war, he rejoins the Essex Regiment 2nd Battalion (the Pompadours) with the rank of Sergeant, his regimental number being 4204. On the 4th of August 1914 the 2nd Battalion is stationed at Chatham as part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Division and then moved to Cromer, Norwich and Harrow. On 24th August 1914 the unit is mobilised for war and arrived in Le Harve, transferring to the 12th Brigade of the 34th Division.

Frederick is soon involved in the action and is awarded the Medaille Militaire for conspicuous bravery. The Médaille Militaire (or Military Medal) is a decoration reserved for non-commissioned officers, simple soldiers and for generals who commanded on battlefields. It was created by Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, the future Napoleon III, on 22 January 1852. It is the second national award in the order of precedence and is administered by the Grand Chancery of the Legion of Honour.

He is also mentioned in Lord French's despatches dated the 8th October 1914.



On the 1st November 1914 he is killed in action and was buried at Armentieres.

In Essex his death is reported in the Essex Newsman, together with his award of the Medaille Militaire. and the on the 16th November 1914, Frederick has a son, Frederick Henry, who, of course, he never sees.

Frederick is also awarded the 1914 Star, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Charles Edward Cooper

Charles Edward was born in 1880 to Henry Cooper and Matilda nee Laver in Great Warley, Essex. and in 1881 was shown in the census as living at 1, Barbrooks Cottages, Woodman Road, Great Warley. He had an elder sister, and in 1891 he has shown as having two younger sisters, Sophia, aged 9 yrs and Mary aged 7 yrs. His father died on 31st July 1897 and at this time he is still living with his mother Matilda at the same address.

Between 1899 and 1902, it is believed that Charles was involved in the 2nd Boer War, as a corporal in the 3rd Volunteer Special Services Company 1st Essex Regiment, his regimental number being 7066.

Upon leaving the army he becomes a house painter and In 1908 he marries Ellen Elizabeth Bright 32 years of age and on 2nd of April 1911 is living at 19 Tower Hill, Brentwood and has one child Laurie aged 2 yrs.

At some time, probably after his wedding and moving to Brentwood, he becomes a member of the Brentwood Fire Brigade, as in February 1914, he is mentioned as a coming first in the two man hydrant drill with Fireman Queenan in a time of 51 seconds, in the annual display and series of competitions in connection with the Brentwood Fire Brigade, which was held near the Yorkshire Grey Public House in Brentwood High Street. He is also considered as an efficient fireman. (Essex Newsman)

At the outbreak of war he joins the 2nd Battalion of The Essex Regiment and as a result of his pervious rank, in the Boer War, he is an acting Sergeant in 1916, his regimental number was 3/2994.

At the outbreak of war the 2nd Battalion was stationed at Chatham as part of the 12th Brigade of the 4th Division and then moved to Cromer, Norwich and Harrow.

On the 24th August 1914 the battalion was mobilised for war and landed at Havre, transferring to the 12th Brigade of the 36th Division.

Between the 5th November 1915 and 3rd February 1916 the battalion was attached to the 109th Brigade of the same Division, initially concentrated around Flesselles and attached to the 4th Division for trench familiarisation and training.

On the 3rd February 1916 they returned to the 12th Brigade and the Division took over the front line section between the River Ancre and the Maily-Maillet to Serre road and engaged in various actions including 'The Battle of Albert.'

It was during this time on the 3rd October 1916, at the age of 39 yrs. Charles is Killed in Action however his body was never recovered. He is mentioned on the Thiepval Memorial, Department



de la Somme, Picardie, France and on the War Memorial in Brentwood



Joseph James Beale

Joseph James Beale was born in Brentwood in 1880. Not much is known of him prior to the 1911 census, however his local tribunal appeal in 1916 indicates that he has been working for 12 years (i.e. since 1904) for a builders, William Deans of 139 High Street, Brentwood as a Mechanic, Plumber and Hot Water fitter.

On 25th December 1900, he is married to Sarah.

In the 1911 census he is shown as living at 42, Weald Road, Brentwood, married, although his wife, Sarah is not present in the house on Census day, and he has one daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, aged 4 yrs and two sons, Edward Albert aged 7yrs and William James aged 2 yrs. He also employs a live in Housekeeper, Edith Nash, aged 22 yrs, and as mentioned above he is a Plumber and Hot Water fitter. At some time during the period between 1911 and 1915 he becomes a member of the Brentwood Fire Brigade, although the exact date is not known, although it may be deduced from information mentioned later, that he joined the Brigade around 1913/14.

Approximately a year after the outbreak of World War 1, on 3rd December 1915 he is attested to the army and because he is a tradesman and his trade is not required at this time, he is placed into the army reserve on the same date. Upon enlistment Joseph is 36 years 11 months of age is

5ft 5 1/2 inches in height and has a chest girth of 37 inches with a chest expansion of 21 1/2 inches. He has no distinctive marks and is given the category A1.

In April 1916 at a meeting of the Brentwood Urban District Council, the council passed a resolution on a report submitted by the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade in relation to Joseph and also John Fowler, who is mentioned elsewhere in this study. The motion that was passed was *“that on the next application of the tribunal, the Superintendent be asked to represent the council and claim that these men are indispensable”*

At the August 1916 meeting of the local tribunal, a temporary exemption is granted for both Beale and Fowler on the condition that they remain in the Fire Brigade. This exemption was to last until 24th November 1916. At the local tribunal held in on the 8th December 1916, The military representative, a Major Ashley Bassett, appealed to the tribunal that in the case of Beale that *“it was not in the national interest that he should remain in his present occupation”*

On December 9th 1916 Superintendent J. Smith of the Brentwood Fire Brigade makes a counter appeal, on the grounds that the Brigade would not be able to function as 7 out of 13 men had enlisted and that the Brigade would not be able to man the engine if there was an air raid or a large fire. It would appear that he has been granted a further temporary extension, however this did not last and on the 5th March 1917 he is mobilised and posted to the newly formed Road Construction Company, Royal Engineers, with the rank of pioneer, his regimental number being 25488. On 3rd April 1917 he embarks with the British Expeditionary Force to go to France.

On the 30th Mar 1919 Joseph is issued with his protection certificate and certificate of identity upon being discharged from the army.

After the war, he rejoins Brentwood Fire Brigade and in March 1926, he is present at the Brentwood and District Fire Brigade Dinner, held at the Lion and Lamb Hotel, Brentwood and is presented with his ten year long service medal.

Henry James Turvey

Henry James Turvey was born in 1881 to William Walter Turvey, a carpenter and joiner, and Mary Ann (*nee Bradford*) in the village of South Weald in Ecclesiastical district of Christ Church, Great Warley and the rural district of Billericay. He is the youngest of the family and has 2 elder brothers, William and Charles and 3 elder sisters, Sarah and twins, Mary and Louisa.

In 1900 he marries Florence (*nee Keeble*) in Rochford and is living in Glebe Road, Rayleigh, Essex and they eventually have 5 daughters, Jessie Florence, Edith Elsie, Ethel Dorcas, Winifred Alice and Louisa Maud and one son, Walter James. At this time, he is shown in the census as a Journeyman Baker, however by the time of the next census in 1911 he is now living at 32, North Road Avenue, Brentwood and his occupation is a general labourer. In 1910 he joins the the Brentwood Fire Brigade and is still a member of the Brigade in 1930, when he receives he 20 year long service award.

After the outbreak of World War 1 he enlists in the 24th Battalion London Regiment with a regimental number of 720009 and serves with the regiment until he is severely wounded in 1918.

The 2/24th (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's) was formed in Sept 1914 and was based in Lambeth and then moved to White City. In Jan 1915 the Battalion moved to Horley and Redhill to join the 181st Brigade of the 60th Division and then moved to St. Albans and then Braintree. In Jan 1916 the battalion moved to Sutton Veny. and on 26th June 1916 were mobilised for war and landed at Havre. In November 1916 the battalion was deployed to Salonika and engaged in various actions including The Battle of Doiran. In Jan 1917 they were deployed to Egypt and engaged in various actions as part of the Palestine Campaign including; The Third Battle of Gaza, The capture of Jerusalem and The defence of Jerusalem.

On the 26th May 1918 the battalion was deployed to France via Alexandria and Taranto and leaving the 60th Division and on 8th July 1918 the battalion was attached to the 198th Brigade of the 66th Division at Serqueux.

On the 11th September 1918 they were transferred to the 173rd Brigade of the 58th Division at Guyencourt and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including; The Battle of Epehy and the general final advance in Artois.

On the 11th November 1918 the battalion ended the war near Peruwelz south east of Tournai, Belgium.

(Forces War Records Unit History)

Prior to the outbreak of War, Henry's wife Florence appears to have had an uncomfortable relationship with one of her neighbours Mrs Lambell, in North Road Avenue, and in June 1911 Florence is summoned for assaulting her, and although she stated that she had simply pushed Mrs Lambell off her premises, she was fined 5 shillings and costs. his ill feeling seems to have continued throughout the war as in 1917, Florence is again summoned for assaulting Cecil Lambell, Mrs Lambell's son. This time, however the complainant admitted that he had hit Mrs Turvey's son and Mrs Turvey said that two big boys had hit her little boy and she had taken his part, but had not hit Lambell. The chairman of the bench said it was a trivial case altogether and dismissed the summons.

As a result of his wounds, Henry is invalided out of the army and is awarded a Silver War Badge number 478383. He also receives the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

After the war he rejoins the Brentwood Fire Brigade and is present at the annual dinner in March 1920, when those present remembered the 9 men who had served with the services during the war, 2 of whom had paid the ultimate price and 6 others (including Henry) who had been wounded, 2 of whom so severely that they had been unable to rejoin the Brigade after the war.

He remains in Brentwood until his death in 1942.

William Alban Alderton

William was born in 1893 in Brentwood to Frederick William, a solicitor's clerk and Fanny Emma

In 1901 he and his family are living in Ongar Road, Brentwood. He has two younger siblings, Joseph Smith Alderton and Dorris Mar Louisa Alderton. By 1911 he has a further sister, Winifred Flora, and the family have moved a short distance to "Oak Lodge" 133 Ongar Road and his occupation is an insurance clerk.

Between 1909 and 1911 he played football for Brentwood Athletics Football club, travelling over Essex by train if necessary to the football matches.

He joins the Brentwood Fire Brigade in late 1913, as the first mention that can be found is in the Chelmsford Chronicle of the 20th February 1914, when he comes 1st with Fireman Fair and Dean in the three man drill and 1st in the two man wet drill with fireman Hull, in the Brentwood Fire Brigade Competitions.

At the outbreak of World War 1 on the 1st September 1914 he joins the Territorial Army, 16th Battalion, City Of London Regiment signing on for 4 years, his regimental number being 2638, which later becomes 550573.

On the 30th October 1914, the Chelmsford Chronicle reports that
"Pte W Alderton of 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment who as been at the front, returned home on sick leave. He was wounded in the shoulder and blood poisoning set in and the dysentery added to his troubles. On arrival in England he was taken to Hospital in Yorkshire and is now recovering".

However extensive research in the Army records show no person of this name serving with the 2nd Essex Regiment.

During the war William Alban Alderton suffers badly, between 30th August 1915 and the end of September, with Neurathemia (which was a disease similar to 'Shell Shock'), so much so that after a spell in Hospital at Boulogne, He was transferred to England by Hospital Ship.

At the end of the war William Alban Alderton is awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1915 Star.

After the war in 1921 he is a speaker at a social gathering to commemorate the opening of new Offices of the Prudential Assurance Company and in July 1930 he is present at the Boy Scouts Rally in Brentwood and is running some of the side shows together with members of the 1st Brentwood and 1st Shenfield Scout groups.

Arthur Henry Bannock.

Arthur was born in London in 1867 to John Bannock, an agricultural Labourer. In 1881 he is living with his father and grandparents in Snape, Suffolk. He has a younger sister Ada E who was aged 12. His mother has died shortly after the birth of his sister.

At the age of 18 he joins the Essex regiment his number being 1725. (according to the Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier Service Record 1760-1920) and the Chelmsford Chronicle in July 1933 does say that he was an old Essex Regiment man who had served with the 44 Essex Regiment and was 1st Corporal of the guard at Warley Barracks gate.

In 1893. he marries Emma Toogood in the Billericay registration district of Essex and shortly afterwards moves to South street, Brentwood.

Not long after his move to Brentwood he joins the Volunteer Fire Brigade.

In 1911 he is living at 35 South Street, Brentwood with his wife Emma. He has 5 children, Ellen Eliza 16yrs, Henry 14 yrs, Frederick George 11yrs, Beatrice May 5 yrs and Arthur William aged 1 yr. His occupation is a Bricklayer

However. then is no record of him enlisting for World War 1 but It must be remembered that this is not unusual as during the Second World War many service records were destroyed during the Blitz.

There is no mention of him during the war years in reports relating to Brentwood Fire Brigade, which would tend to support the argument that he did serve.

However by 1921 he has returned to the Fire Brigade as he participates in the Fire Brigade contests, coming first in the Veterans Drill.

The following year 1922 he participates in the Fire Brigade competitions and comes first in the hydrant wet drill for 2 men with H.C. Southgate.

In 1923 a presentation is made to Arthur, who has retired, of a silver plated mahogany biscuit barrel suitably inscribed for 30 years service with the Brigade.

In 1931 he attends the funeral of John Smith ex Superintendent of Brentwood Fire Brigade.

Arthur dies in July 1933 aged 66 yrs.

John Fowler

John was born in 1886, the son of John and Ellen. He was the eldest son having 7 siblings, one being an elder sister and the rest being junior to him. His father when he was born was a general labourer but in the 1901 census he is shown as being a railway plate layer. In the census of 1891 and 1901 he lived in Ongar Road, Brentwood. He attended school and after leaving at the age of 14 he became a houseboy and is shown in the census of 1901 as a Houseboy domestic. On the 1st August 1910 he is married to Florence and in the census of 1911 he has a one month old son, John Wilfred Fowler. He has by this time obtained employment as Nurseryman and Florist working

for John Thompson West of 26 Tower Road, Brentwood. On the 8th May 1913 John Fowler gives evidence in a case held in Brentwood Magistrates Court, on behalf of his employer, with regard to the theft of Geraniums in which he attempts to identify plants found in possession of the accused A Mr Frederick Abbott, Gardener, of Alfred Road, Brentwood, by means of the drainage of the plants and the compost used. Having listened to all the evidence in the case, the Magistrates found that there was considerable doubt in the case which they gave the benefit of to the defendant.

There is no accurate date for when John joined the local brigade in Brentwood but he is certainly a member of the Brigade prior to the 9th December 1915, when he is enlisted into the London Regiment with the regimental number of 551725 and is immediately posted to the Army Reserve. On joining the army he is shown as living at 73 North Road Avenue, Brentwood and has a further two children, Frederick George who was born on the 5th November 1914 and Thyllis Ida born on the 30th November 1916, just nine days before he enlists with the army. Information contained in his enlistment forms show that he was not a large man, being only 5ft 4 inches in height and has a chest measurement of 37½ inches, with a chest expansion of 21½ inches.

On the 13th December John Fowler becomes a member of the National Fire Brigades Union and desires to be enrolled under section B Army Reserve in accordance with the regulations. These regulations specified that a mark be placed against each mans name who is a member of an authorised fire brigade, to make certain that such a man will not be called up until full enquiry has been made into the matter.

On Thursday 24th August 1916, Superintendent J Smith of the Brentwood Fire Brigade applies for a further extension at a local enquiry for John James Beale (mentioned elsewhere in this work) and John Fowler as these are the only two men capable of fire escape work and there are six men out of 13 members of the Brigade serving with the army, which leaves the Brigade very short to turn out when first receiving a call out to a fire. The application was granted for three months.

In December 1916, Superintendent Smith again argues at a local tribunal for the retention of John Fowler, but this time without success and on the 9th January 1917 he was mobilised and posted to France as part of the London Regiment, Regimental number 551725. On the 29th April he received a gunshot wound to his right leg and is sent home to England. on the Hospital Ship *The Princess Elizabeth*.

On the 8th April 1918 he is posted to Labour Corps and on the 10 February he is promoted to temporary corporal, promoted corporal on the 20th June 1919 and appointed Sergeant on the 10th September 1919. He is demobilised on the 18th November 1919 with a 10% disability in his leg for which he receives a pension of 6 shillings for himself and 4 shillings for his family.

As a postscript to his army career it is mentioned in his army record that on the 4th March 1920 he had his army "will" returned to him against his signature, by post.

John Fowler rejoins the Brentwood Fire Brigade and in February 1922, he come second in the One Man manual drill, second in the two men manual drill (with Fireman Bannock), first in the Four man hydrant, first in the Four man hose cart (one of those with him was Joseph James Beale, mentioned elsewhere in this work) and first in the Tractor Turnout at the Fire Brigade Competition held in Brentwood High Street.

George H. Crisp

George was born in 1871 in Brentwood, Essex to George a stonemason and. Ann nee Betts. At the time of his birth he had an elder sister Nellie. The following year his parents have another girl Annie and two years later a boy John.

In 1880 George's mother dies, and by 1881, the family are living with the grand mother Martha Crisp at The Wharf "King William", Springfield, Chelmsford

His elder sister Nellie is a dressmaker and the rest of the family are scholars. His father is still a stonemason but is unemployed.

In 1895 George marries Eliza Page in the Chelmsford registration district of Essex and by 1901 the family have moved to South Street, Brentwood and George has three children, David, George and Ada and his occupation is a Malster's Labourer.

By 1911 he has another child Florrie, and whilst he is still a Malster's Labourer, the family have moved to 2, Malting Cottages, James Road, Brentwood.

In 1915 his son David joins the Royal Engineers Signals as a driver at the age of 19yrs, his regimental number being 142296, and he serves in Baghdad. He survives the war and his discharge papers indicate that his family are still living at 2 St James Road, Brentwood in 1919. as his next of kin is still given as his father George.

George himself dies in June 1927 in Brentwood.

George's early life was not uneventful and one event may have had a long lasting effect which would eventually lead to his membership of the Brentwood Volunteer Fire Brigade.

On a Saturday afternoon in February 1871 whilst living with his Grandmother his sister Ann aged 8 was severely burned. It appears that Ms Crisp had left Annie alone with a young child

In a room alone and during her absence the young one pushed Annie against the stove and before she could recover her clothes had become ignited. She immediately opened the door and then ran to a neighbour, a Mr Randall who did his utmost to release her from the flames by tearing off her

clothes. Her father arrived and with his aid the remaining burning clothing was removed from the child and she was conveyed to bed. A Doctor Mr Keene attended and it was found that she was severely burnt about the lower part of her body, legs and arms the poor girl made no progress and she eventually died. A man who was passing with a wagon and horses at the time saw the child rush out of the house, but he did not stop and render assistance.

On the 11 March 1871 an inquest was held at the Dukes Head Inn before Mr C.C. Lewis, coroner which came up with the Verdict of Death from accidental burning"

In 1901 George joins the Brentwood fire Brigade and in 1911 receives a bronze medal for 10yrs service at a dinner for the brigade held at the White Hart Hotel, Brentwood.

Little else can be found regarding George's service with the Brentwood Fire Brigade.

Frederick Queenan

Born 1876 Aldershot to Matthew Queenan, a bricklayer's labourer and his wife Julie.

By 1891 the family are living in South Street, Brentwood and Frederick is a Grocers Assistant and he has a younger sister Mary. By 1901 Matthew's father has died. The family are still living in South Street, Brentwood. and Frederick has become a plasterer.

In 1902 Frederick marries Emily Tearle and by 1911 he has a daughter Mary Agnes. The family are living at 21 Urban Terrace, Western Road, Brentwood and Frederick is still a plasterer.

In 1893 Frederick joined the Brentwood Voluntary Fire Brigade and in 1911 he is awarded a bronze medal and bar for 15 years service) and in 1913 at the annual dinner of the Brentwood. Brigade presented a 20 year medal by Mr Burnett Tabrum J. P.

In 1914 at the Brentwood Fire Brigade competitions Frederick comes first in the One Man Drill and first in the Two Man hydrant Drill with Fireman Cooper and First in the Six man drill with Firemen Fair, Turner, Garrett, Turvey and Dean.

Frederick does not appear to enlist in World War 1 and it is not known when he leaves the brigade or when he dies.

John McKivett.

John was born in Hoxton, Middlesex to John a Glass Blower, and Elizabeth. He had one elder sister Henrietta aged 14 and by 1861 he had a younger sister Rosa who was born in 1860 when the family had moved to Cornwall Road in Lambeth.

In 1866 his father John dies in Shoreditch and by 1871 John was an inmate at Shoreditch Industrial school in Brentwood,. The Shoreditch Agricultural and Industrial School was a workhouse

in London Road, Brentwood... After the death of the father John, the family were split up with Henrietta and Rosa going to St George's workhouse Mint Street London and John, as above, going to the Shoreditch Industrial School, Brentwood.

In 1879 he married Ellen Smith in Billericay registration District of Essex and in 1881 he is living at 2 Stamford House, Back street, Brentwood and his occupation is a journeyman Baker and his wife Ellen is a Laundress. They have one son William. Ten years later John has become a Laundryman working with his wife. He has seven more children, Elizabeth, Ellen, Kate, Annie, Edith, Emily and Frederick.

In 1901, the family are living in Hart street, Brentwood and his family has increased by a 4 further children Henrietta, Minnie, Dorothy, and Jack.

Later in 1901 his wife Ellen dies at the age of 43yrs, she had been performing her household duties, when she suddenly dropped down and expired. She had been unwell for some time.

In 1910 John is fined 2s6d for allowing his dog to be on the highway without a name collar.

In 1911 John is a laundry propieter and is living at the Standford Laundry, in the High street, Brentwood. He has five children living with him Annie 25 yrs who is the house keeper, Edith who is a laundress, working for her father, Frederik 20yrs who is a carpenter, Dorothy 13yrs who is an apprentice draper, and Jack aged 11 who is a scholar.

John has also at some time previously become a fireman with the Brentwood fire Brigade as he participates in the 26th Annual Fire Escape Drill held at the White Hart Hotel in Brentwood and comes third in the competition with Firemen Bannock and Fair. During 1912 ambulance work was introduced to the Brigade by Dr Robert Quennell and certificates and badges were presented to a number of men including John McKivett.

Because of age John does not enlist in armed services, however his son Jack does and is killed in action in 1918 in France.

It is not known when John left the Brigade but he dies in June 1924

James Fair

James was born on 31st January 1859, to Charles Fair, a shoemaker, and Eliza nee Wood and was born at home in the High Street, Brentwood. In 1871 the family are still living in the High Street, Brentwood and his father is still a shoemaker. Unfortunately however, later in' the Same year, his father Charles dies.

By 1898 James has joined the Brentwood Fire Brigade as in this year the 14th annual competitions of the took place in the High Street. He is already the Engineer of the Brigade at the age of 39 yrs and with Captain Andrews he wins the Two Man Drill in 28 seconds. With Captain Andrews and Fireman Turner he comes second in the Three Man Drill, and won the Four man Drill with Captain Andrews, Fireman Turner and Fireman Quinnan. In 1901 on the 17th February he marries Lydia Concannon in the Parish Church of St James Ratcliffe, London. He is now living at Wellesley Road, Brentwood and his occupation is a house painter.

li 1902 he and Lydia have twin daughters, Maud Emily and Lydia Alice followed in March 1903 by birth of Ethel Minnie and in November 1904 Charles James. The following year, another daughter Agnes Gwendoline is born.

In May 1910 he was a member of the Brigade when a presentation of a marble clock was made by the Brigade to Capt. J. Winter upon his retirement which bore an inscription containing the names of the Brigade.

By the following year, 1911, he has moved to and is living at the Fire Station, Hart Street, Brentwood. His occupation is shown as a house painter employed by a builder.

He does not enlist during World War 1 because of age, but remains in the Brentwood Fire Brigade and after the war, in March 1914 When the Brentwood Brigade held its annual fire drill competitions, he comes second with Fireman A Wilson in the Two Man Drill . In 1928 he is presented with his medal and bar for 40 years service in the Brigade.

He dies in 1938 at the age of 78 years having served in the Brigade for over 50 years unbroken service. His funeral which took place in May 1938 was attended by members of Chelmsford, Romford, Billericay, Hornchurch and Walthamstow Fire Brigades. Members of the Brentwood Brigade acted as bearers at the interment at Brentwood Cemetery.

Brightlingsea

Ralph Montague Orman

Ralph Montague Orman was born in 1888 to Jacob Orman a Master Mariner (Seas) and Sarah Anne Orman in Brightlingsea, Essex. At the time of Ralph's birth his father is 49 years of age and Sarah is 47 years. He has 4 brothers, Fred, George, Herbert and Jacob. The 1911 census shows that George, Herbert and Jacob have all got association with the sea, Geoge being a Ships Cook, Herbert being a Ships Steward and Jacob being a Mariner. Fred is not mentioned in the 1911 but in 1901 his occupation is shown as a Shipwright. The family has obviously got very strong connections with the sea, and so it not surprising therefore, when Ralph leaves school he becomes a sail maker.

On 8th December 1912, at the age of 24 he marries Alice Maud Pallot at Brighlingsea and they move into a house situated at 20 Sydney Street, Brightlingsea.



After the outbreak of war, he does not join the navy but in October 1916 he joins the Royal Engineers Inland Water Transport company instead, his regimental number being 208104.

The I.W. & D companies were formed in 1915 originally operating barges in the Middle East and France, later they operated cross channel barges from Richborough in Kent carrying arms and ammunition as well as construction materials and the heavy stuff the BEF needed. They tended to be recruited from civilian watermen, or barge operators and were tested to Army standards. Skilled men were not only paid at an enhanced rate but often received fairly rapid promotion. This seems to be the case with Ralph as will be seen later on.

Just shortly after joining his unit on the 25th October 1916, he becomes a father on the 2nd December 1916 to Montague Charles who was born in Brightlingsea. Five days later he is posted abroad to join the British Expeditionary Force in France. and on the 20th March 1917 he is promoted to corporal and three months later on the 20th June 1917 he is again promoted to



second corporal.

Ralph survives the war and upon his return to England he becomes a member of the Brightlingsea Fire Brigade in the 1920's the above photograph of the Brightlingsea Brigade is taken, from which the insert at the beginning of this précis is taken.

In 1923, he together with two other firemen, R. Gilbert and A. Brooks, (not in the picture above) he comes second in the Brightlingsea Regatta in the 'Shovel Race for Men' and in 1930 he is triumphant, again with the same crew in the 'pull-devil-pull baker' competition in the Regatta held that year.

By December 1933 he has become Captain of the Brightlingsea Brigade as a newspaper article in the Chelmsford Chronicle in December of that year mentions that The Captain of the Brightlingsea Brigade, R Orman, and several of the firemen, R. Barr, A Brooks, R. Gilbert, F King and P. Smith, offer to resign and their resignations are accepted by the Fire Committee. There is reason mentioned for the resignations.

Ralph Montague Orman dies on the 2nd May 1965 and is at that time resident at 15 Station Road, Brightlingsea, leaving his estate to Alice Maud Orman, his widow.

Albert Edward Harding

Born in 1890 in Smethwick, Staffordshire to Thomas (a Tube Catcher at a steel Tube works) and Mary. He moved to Brightlingsea at the out break of WW1 went to France with the 20th Hussars on the 22nd August 1914.

In 1915 he was married to Olive Prior, the youngest daughter of George Prior and Alice , who it is believed died in 1929. After the war he joined the brigade at Brightlingsea and his death is reported in the Chelmsford Chronicle on 22nd September 1939. At this time he was living in Sydney Street, Brightlingsea, The reason for his death is not given but his funeral cortège was headed by the Brighlingsea Fire Brigade, manned by members of the Brigade under Superintendent J Hicks and there was a floral tribute by the brigade.

Reginald Cooper Barr

Born in 1894 in Wivenhoe, Essex to Frank H. Barr, a boat builder, and Clara nee Cooper

By 1911 he is the eldest of 5, his siblings being Annie Mary, Lilly May, Gladys Petoria and Kenneth James.. He is still living with his parents, the address being 103 New Street Brightlingsea and his occupation is a Sail Makes Apprentice

In 1912 he became a member of the Brightlingsea Fire Brigade

At the outbreak of war, he did not enlist immediately, but on 15 May 1915 he enlists in the Army Ordinance Corps (New Force) with the regimental number 07639 On enlistment he was 21 years old and 5 ft 8ins in height with a chest girth when expanded of 35 ins. He weighed 140 lbs and was said to be of good physical development. and had 6/6 vision in both eyes.

Whilst in the army he achieved the military qualification, as one might expect of a sail maker, as a tent-mender. He was tested at the Royal Arsenal on 20 may 1915 by a civilian Tradesman, Mr A Nelson, who was a sailmaker and who found him to be a 1st Class Tent-mender Artificer, which meant that the man should be better than the average tradesman. He should be capable of instructing other men and should be able to read a drawing and to take out quantities from it and the corresponding grade in civil life would be a leading hand er charge man

On the 4 November 1915 he was posted to temporary duty at Sulva in the Dardenells, from Madras, where he arrived on 5th December 1915

On the 19th January 1916 he arrived at Alexandria aboard the SS "Shropshire."

On 22 Jan 1916 he left for Ismailia from Alexandria and on 3rd Feb 1916 he left for Suez from Ismailia



SS Shropshire

arriving the same day. On 19.4.1917 he was promoted to acting Lance corporal with pay and on 16 Sept 1917 he was appointed Lance corporal without pay. On 20 December 1918 he was promoted to lance corporal..

On leaving the army in 1919 he is shown to be a sober reliable and intelligent man who has shown special aptitude for employment as a charge hand in civil life. and his officer wished it to be noted that he was a very useful man for supervisors work and a good marksman, who had good power of command and control and is tactful in his way of handling men.

In the last quarter of 1919 he married Dora M. Bishop in Tendering and rejoined the Brightlingsea Fire Brigade

In December 1933, there were a number of resignations from the Brightlingsea Brigade which included Reginald Barr, the resignations being accepted by the urban council.

However Reginald must have rejoined the Brigade, because in a Newspaper feature article in the "Maldon" column by Sheila Pattison in the Chelmsford Chronicle of Friday 17th February 1950 an article referring to the firm of Arthur Taylor and Son Sail makers, it is stated that R. C. Barr travels to Maldon everyday from Brightlingsea where he is a sub officer in the Fire Brigade.

Reginald Cooper Barr of 64 New Street, Brightlingsea died on 24 August 1965, at St Mary's Hospital Colchester with probate to Dora May Barr, widow.

Percy Joseph Smith. (Joseph Percy Smith)

Percy was born in 1893 to Joseph, a gardener and Florence. In 1911 at the age of 18 he can be found living with his parents at 31 Queen Street, Brightlingsea and he has 5 younger siblings Florence, Lily, George, Jack and Joe.

At a date unknown he joins the Brightlingsea Fire Brigade.

Following the outbreak of the First World War, on 27 Jan 1915 Percy joins the Royal Engineers. However by this date he has reversed his forenames and enlists as Joseph Percy Smith, with the rest of his details being identical, including his home address 31 Queens street Brightlingsea. and his occupation is shown as a Hawker. He is given the regimental number 60731

At the time of his enlistment his height is given as 5ft 8 1/2. ins and a chest girth, when fully expanded of 35 inches. The name and address of his next of kin is shown as his father, Joseph of 31 Queen Street, Brightlingsea, Essex.

He enlisted at Colchester and his rank was that of Driver.

On 23 August 1915 he embarked to join the British Expeditionary Force. and he joined the 208 Field Company, Royal Engineers

On. 17.5.1919 his army records show that he had volunteered for one year from 13.3.19. as a Driver and he served at Seelschied. He was demobilised on 2 Jan 1920. He was awarded

the Victory Medal, British War Medal and the 1915 Star.

After the war he returned to the Brightlingsea Fire Brigade and in 1933 is one of 6 firemen, including the Captain of the Brigade who resign from the Brigade.

He dies in the 10th November 1973 at which time he is living at 57, Hurst Green, Brightlingsea.

Buckhurst Hill

In 1884 the Parish Vestry resolved to maintain a Fire Engine, which was purchased by public subscription and which was later taken over by Buckhurst Hill Urban District Council. In 1886 the Brigade had their first annual dinner. In 1896 the site of the Fire Station was at Stag Lane Reservoir, Stag Lane, Buckhurst Hill. This was however demolished and replaced by the Fire Station which was situated on the High Road which was demolished in 1933 with the opening of Loughton and Grange Farm, Chigwell.



Buckhurst Hill Fire Brigade circa 1900

Richard Harry Slater

Richard was born in Loughton, Essex in 1875 to Richard James, a carpenter and joiner and Ellen

Eugenie nee Ellis who were married in 1871 in Lambeth, and at the time of the marriage Richard James was a publican.

By the time of the census in 1887 Richard has 2 younger sisters Kate Ellen 3 and Edith may 1. He had one elder sister Ronna E who is 8 and who is staying at the time of the census with her Uncle and a brother James, is staying another Aunt.

By 1891 the family are living in Lower Queens Road Chigwell at which time Richard Harry is a Carpenters Labourer.

In 1898 Richard marries Alice Sarah nee Savill in West Ham.

In 1901 Richard and Alice are living in Albert Road North, Buckhurst Hill and his occupation is a Carpenter. He has one daughter Kate.

In 1909 Richard participates in the second annual fete held under the auspices of the Buckhurst Hill

Mens club which took place on Wednesday 3rd June 1909 and comes 3rd in the 100 yards Veterans Handicap.

By 1911 the family are living at 'Laburnham House' Albert Road North, Buckhurst Hill. His occupation is still a carpenter and he now has a son Alfred who is 7 yrs. His father has died and he has his mother and two brothers Joseph and Robert living with him.,

He does not enlist in the armed services during World War 1 but in 1917 he joins the Buckhurst Hill Fire Brigade were in 1934, a year after Buckhurst Hill Fire Brigade closed, he is presented with a long service medal.

On the 19th July 1929 Richard wins two firsts and a third in the Amateur classes of the annual Buckhurst Hill Flower and Vegetable Show, held in the grounds of "St Just" lent by Mr Charles Linder.

Richard dies on the 8 May 1949 whilst living at 91 Albert Road, Buckhurst Hill with effects going to his widow Alice Sarah.

George Charles Peacham,

George was born in 1877 in Buckhurst Hill, Essex, to George, a Bricklayer labourer and Elizabeth Amelia nee Chumbley. In 1881 his family are living at 2 Albert Road North, Chigwell, by which time. he has a younger sister Elizabeth and his grandfather Joseph Peacham and his uncle William Chumbley are living with them, as is a lodger, Terry Klien, a taylor, from Stuttgart in Germany.

In 1891 the family have moved to Princess Road, Chigwell and his father is still a Bricklayer's Labourer. At this time they have a boarder, a Joseph Grant who is a widow at the age of 37 and is a stonemason. George also has a younger brother Arthur who is 1.

In 1898 George marries Alice Mary Cakebread and by 1901 are living with George's parents and have two children George J aged 2 and William C aged 6 months. His occupation is a Bricklayer

In 1911 George and his family have moved to 1, Kings Place, Buckhurst Hill and his occupation is now a house painter. He has two further children Ellen Louisa aged 9 and Arthur Henry aged 5yrs In 1914 he joins the Buckhurst Hill Fire Brigade and remains there throughout the First world war

until 1934 when he receives a long service medal for 20 years service.

George dies in September 1940 in Uxbridge, Middlesex at the age of 63 years.

Harry William Knight

Harry was born in Woodford Essex to William Knight a carpenter and his wife Sophia. In 1871 he has a younger brother Fred and is living in Inmans Row, Woodford. By 1881 he has two further siblings , a brother Charlie and a sister Frances .

In 1893 he marries Ada Florence Wood in the registration district of Epping and by 1901, he and his wife have moved to Princes Road Buckhurst Hill and his occupation, like his father, is a carpenter. He has two children William Charles and Reginald Leonard.

Ada dies in the last quarter of 1906 and in the same year Harry joins the the Buckhurst Hill Fire Brigade.

In 1908 Harry marries Edith Maria Ridley in the Epping registration district of Epping and by 1911 the family have moved to 1, The Uplands, Lower Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill. He is still a carpenter and joiner and now has twin children Victor Harold and Gladys Kathleen who are 7 years old.. In July 1911 he has a further child, Fred Ernest who dies in the July of 1912.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist in the armed services, but remains in the Buckhurst Fire Brigade and by 1915 he has become Captain of the Brigade when he attends a conference which discusses the arrangements for combined action in the event of incendiary bombs being dropped in the district.

In 1933 the Buckhurst Fire Brigade was closed and the following year Harry was presented with a long service medal and bar for 27 years service. His wife Edith was presented with a gold wrist watch as a little appreciation of the council for her services during the past 23 years. During that period Mr Seabrook, the former chairman of the now defunct Buckhurst Hill Council, said that in order to attend to Fire calls Mrs Knight had not had a holiday and the council were grateful for such devoted service.

Mrs Knight, Edith, dies on the 21 December 1949, in the Epping registration district and Harry died on 23rd January 1959 and at the time of death he was living at 73 Princes Road, Buckhurst Hill.

William Robert Bunsauil

William Robert Bunsauil was the first child born in 1858 to William Bunsauil, a plumber and Maria A Bunsauil nee Cory. At the time of his birth the family lived at Westwell Street, Plymouth. By 1861 William has a younger sister, Mary who is 10 months old. Ten years later in 1871, William and his family have moved to Albert Road, Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, His father is still a

plumber but the family has grown and William has a further 4 younger siblings, Elizabeth, John, Edith and Alyce.

In 1881 William is a boarder, living at 21 Catherine Street, Bethnal Green, London with a family called Ward, and his occupation is a plumber like his father. The following year, on the 8th August 1882, he marries Rose Brown at All Saints, Camden Town, Camden.

By 1901 he is living at 3 Arthur Terrace, Gladstone Road Buckhurst Hill, Essex. He is still a plumber and has two children William R and Rose. William joined the Buckhurst Hill Fire Brigade, as a founding member, however on 20th May 1903 he is appointed Captain of the brigade in place of Mr W.H. Butler who had resigned.

In 1907 William is presented with a long service medal for service in the brigade, indicating that he must have joined in 1897 or before.

By 1911 William is still living at at 3 Arthur Terrace , however he has changed his occupation which is now shown on the census form as a House Painter.

On Monday 2nd October 1911 William's cap and coat were found on the bank of the cascade and later in the afternoon his body was recovered from the water. At the inquest held on Thursday 5th October 1911 at the Buckhurst Hill Men's Club, Dr Spencer Davies deposed that death was due to asphyxia due to drowning. Mr T.J. Lee, Clerk to the Buckhurst Hill Council said the deceased had been a member of the Fire Brigade ever since it was formed and for several years its Captain. Evidence showed that William had had no work for some time, although his accounts were in perfect order. The jury found a verdict of Suicide while Temporarily Insane and expressed deep sympathy with the widow and family.

On Saturday 7th October 1911, William was buried with full fire brigade honours, with representatives from nine Fire Brigades being present,(Buckhurst Hill, Woodford, Wanstead, Grays, Ilford, Waltham Abbey, Ponders End, Leyton and Leytonstone, and Loughton) with a total number of 50 Firemen being present. The coffin was carried on the Buckhurst Hill engine, which was followed by the Foresters wearing regalia, a detachment of Woodfod Sub Division of the Metropolitan Police, employees of the Metropolitan Water Board and the Woodford and Ponders End fire engines and a horse and cart fro Ilford. The coffin was borne to the grave by members of the Buckhurst Hill Fire Brigade.

Burnham-on-Crouch

Henry Yardley

In 1877 born to Charles, a Mariner and Harriet nee Stebbings. At the time of his birth he had 4 elder siblings, Emma, William, Annie, and George and by the census in 1881, 2 younger siblings, Thomas and Aaron and the family are living in Providence Street, Burnham.



In 1891 at the age of 14 years he is a cook on the "Thomas Wood" berthed in Millwall Dock, London which is the same ship as his father.

By 1901, he is living in Providence Street again and his occupation is a Yachtsman
In 1901 he participates in the Burnham Regatta. and comes First in single sculling race and wins 10 shillings.

The following year in 1902 he marries Mildred Thorogood.

In 1906 he joins the Burnham Volunteer Fire Brigade and in November of that year he attends a Fire at Halls Farm which destroys Hay stacks and Farm Buildings.

In 1911 he is living at 22 Witney Terrace, Granville Terrace Burnham-on-Crouch and he has become an Insurance Agent and has one son Henry Charles.

In 1914 he achieves the rank of acting captain of the Burnham Brigade. During World War 1 he does not enlist in the Armed services, but there is a record of Henry Yardley of Burnham being awarded Campaign medals as a WW 1 Merchant seaman.

It is not know if he returned to the Fire Brigade after the war but he dies December 1943 in Chelmsford Essex

Christopher Charmley Booth

Born in 1882 in Highgate, London to James Wilson Booth and Sarah Jane Elizabeth nee Cridland. At the time of his birth he had two elder sisters Christobel and Kathleen. By 1911 Christopher is still living with his parents at 'Glanmere' Western Road, Burnham On Crouch. He is the Works Manager and a Director of the Booths and Brooke's Iron foundry, of the Mildmay Ironworks. At this time he has two younger siblings Paul and Maud May.

In 1891 he is living in Clerkenwell St. James at 'Shandon' Muswell Road. with his family

In 1912 he marries Annie Irene Turner, and by 1914 he has a son Patricia Charnley.

On 30th January 1925 his mother Sarah dies followed on the 10 April 1931 by the death of his father James Wilson Booth

On 4th March 1910 he was appointed Second Lieutenant in the 4th Essex Regiment which was a Territorial Battalion

By 1912 he was a Lieutenant in the Burnham On Crouch Volunteer Fire Brigade.

By 30th December 1915 Christopher was promoted to Captain in the 18th (Home Service) Battalion.

After the War he did not rejoin the Fire Brigade, but became prominent in the local community In 1920 he was on a committee which looked at a Memorial Hall for Burnham.

In 1934 he is appointed as a Justice of the Peace at the Quarter Sessions at Chelmsford on Wednesday 3rd January at which time his address was 'Westbury' Malden Road, Burnham on Crouch.

In 1940 Christopher organised the formation of the local Defence Volunteers (later known as the Home Guard) in Burnham

In 1949 he and his brother revived the Mildmay Ironworks Football Club With himself as president and his brother Chairman of the Club

He was also involved for several years as chairman of the Burnham Carnival Committee

Christopher Chamley Booth died on 1st April 1963 with probate going to his sons. At the time of his death he was living at 'Westbury' Burnham on Crouch.

Frederick George Hawkins

Frederick was born in 1876 in Burnham-on-Crouch to Henry Hawkins , a coal merchant, and Eliza nee Bass. He has four elder siblings Sarah, Ernest, Alice and John and in 1881 the family are living at Quay Clay Office. By 1891 he is still living at the Quay, Burnham and he is still at school.

In 1892 he marries Violet May Larter in the Maldon registration district of Essex and by 1911 he is living at Albert House, Crouch Road, Burnham-on-Crouch. He has two children Frederick John and Florence May and he has followed in his father's footsteps as a coal merchant. In 1904 his tender for supply of coal to the Waterworks is accepted at a cost of 17s 9d

By 1906 Frederick has joined the Burnham-on-Crouch Volunteer Fire Brigade and was vice-Captain of the Brigade. By 1909, he has become Captain of the Fire Brigade.

In 1913 the Burnham Root Club which was first formed in 1864 and which had lapsed 16 years previously, was revived and Frederic was one of the Honorary Secretaries.

In 1914 he is in charge of the brigade at a disastrous fire in Burnham-on-Crouch, when a large 3 floor property, which had previously been the clubhouse of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, and which was currently being used by a Mr J.P.K. Clark a member of the Royal Corinthian and Burnham Yacht Club and owner of the racing yacht 'Lavender'. The fire spread so rapidly that Mr and Mrs Clark just about escaped from the premises. The Fire Brigade attended and worked heroically to prevent the fire spreading to neighbouring premises in which the Brigade succeeded to a remarkable degree. Later in August of the same year, the Volunteer Fire Brigade lose the services of their captain, as Frederick is a member of the National Reserve and had been entrusted with the local organising work as a result of World War 1.

After the War, Frederick does not appear to rejoin the Fire Brigade, but over several years he is heavily involved in other organisations in Burnham, including the Burnham Carnival, of which he is the Honorary Treasurer and member of the committee organising the Burnham Memorial. In 1922 he was the chairman of the British Legion and Young Mariner's Society. By 1929 he has become the chairman of the Burnham Board of Trade, and in the same year he was a starter at the Burnham Regatta.

In 1931 he was the foreman of a coroner's inquest jury into the death of Edward Richard John Boyle of Hampstead who had died tragically falling down concrete stairs at the quay and injuring his head. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

In October 1934, Frederick was driving his four seater motor car from Burnham in the rain, when the car skidded, ran through the hedge and overturned pinning Frederick inside. He escaped by breaking the windscreen with a cranking handle and crawled out.

Frederick dies on the 16th February 1956 at the General Hospital, Chelmsford, whilst living at 25 Church Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, with probate going to his widow Violet May Hawkins. Effects to the value of £1723 2s 11d.

Chelmsford



Chelmsford Fire Brigade which resigned in 1907

Harry Garfield Evans

Harry Garfield Evans was born in Chelmsford in 1886 to John and Fanny. He was the only and eldest boy in the family having 5 sisters, Berth, 13 years, Violet 11 years, Olive 9 years, Rosa & years and Ada 5 Years. At the age of 15 he is living with his family in Burgess Well Road, Chelmsford and his occupation is given as a Carpenter.

On 23rd March 1904 at the age of 19 he marries Lily Emily BERRY and in the 1911 census is shown as living at 10 Threadneedle Street, Chelmsford, with his family which now consists of three daughters, Irene, aged 6 years, Esme aged 4 and Phyllis aged 2 years and one son Basil aged 3 years. Examination of the census form shows that he has lost one child.



At some date, which is at this time unknown, he joins the Chelmsford Fire Brigade and on the 31st July 1914, 5 days before the outbreak of War, he is appointed Station Officer at Chelmsford.

On the 3rd March 1915, he enlists in the Royal Engineers as a Sapper , his regimental number being 69508, and on 14th March 1915 is posted to the newly formed 150th Field Company of the

Royal Engineers, which, together with the 121st and 122nd Field Companies, served with the 36th Ulster Division. As he was a tradesman, a carpenter by calling, he undertakes a skills test in the army and is passed as 'skilled'. In the first week of October 1915 he embarks for France and the 36th Ulster Division was concentrated around Flesselles, north of Arras. In the Spring of 1916 the division suffered heavily on the the first day of the Battle of the Somme where they attacked Thiepval. In 1917 they were in action at the Battle of Messines and in the Battle of Langemarck during the third Battle of Ypres and the Cambrai Operations here the division captured Bourlon Wood. In 1918 the division was involved in the Somme in the Battles of the Lys and the Final advance in Flanders. (warmemoriesproject.com)

On the 5th April 1917 his skill rating is raised to 'Superior' and his pay is now 1 shilling and 8d per day.

On 11th Jan 1919 he is discharged from service and issued with his Protection Certificate and Certificate of Identity. He is awarded the Victory Medal, The British Medal and the 1915 Star.

He rejoins the Chelmsford Fire Brigade where he remained until his death, becoming station officer. He also was awarded the Kings Jubilee Medal and in 1928 a medal issued by the National Fire Brigade Association for 20 years service and good conduct and two silver bars each for 5 years service.

He died on the 11th January 1939 at the age of 53 years.

Albert Edward Murkin

Born in 1873 at Shoeburyness to John Murkin 46yrs, a Chelsea Pensioner and Mary Ann Murkin On 1st November 1896 he named Edith wells at East Haningfield Essex.

By 1911 he is living at 4 Mill Road, Chelmsford, and his occupation is an Engineer. He has two sons, Bertie Leo, and Sidney John and one daughter Alberta. Edith. His mother is Mary Ann is also living with the family.

In 1912, he was first station officer at Chelmsford under the resident fireman A. G.Wells. At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist as he is now the superintendent of the fire brigade in Chelmsford.

Superintendent Murkin is present at the presentation to one of his former Firemen, Sgt Major R. Crozier at Chelmsford in March 1915 prior to his departure to the front.

After the war, In December 1922 Supt. Murkin was involved in the rescue of two horses together with Horseman Hills of the firm Messrs Brown and Son Timber Merchants, for which they both received medals from the RSPCA in 1923.

On Thursday 7th November 1929 his son Sidney John died in hospital as a result of a motorcycle accident at the junction of Church Street and New street, Chelmsford on Monday 4th November

In 1932 Supt. Murkin reaches the statutory age limit and should retire, however it is recommended that his contract be extended for three months as from 3rd July 1932 whilst applications are invited by advertisement for a professional superintendent. This meeting occurs shortly after Supt Murkin's wife Edith has died and the Town clerk expresses condolences on behalf of the council.

By 1937 Albert has become Superintendent of Chelmsford market.

He died on 13 December 1950 at 48 Wood Street Chelmsford, although his home address was Hope Bungalow, Hall Road, Broomfield., Essex.

Gainsford Daly Dixon

Gainsford was born in Chelmsford in 1888, the son of James Gainsford Dixon and Alice Emma nee Creasy.

IN 1891 his father was a tailor's assistant and lived at 6 West End Terrace, South Primrose Hill, Chelmsford. However by 1901 his father has become a Master Tailor and Outfitter and is living at 15 Duke Street, Chelmsford. George is the eldest of 4 children, having 2 brothers , Leonard F., Launcalott J., and one sister Eva Carrie.

Gainsford is obviously interested in playing cards as in 1908 he comes second in a Whist Drive. Also in 1908 he becomes a member of the Chelmsford Fire Brigade.

In 1910 Gainsford marries Eva Louisa Richards at St Marks, Regent Park, Camden, Middlesex and in 1911 he can be found living at 46 Townfield Street, Chelmsford, his occupation being a Shop Assistant. Unfortunately 1911 proves to be a eventful year for Gainsford, as whilst attending Hoffmans Works in Chelmsford and eating a meal, he gets too close to an open fire and is set on fire severely burning his knees and feet.

On 23rd October 1916, his father who is J.G. Dixon, who is a Town Councillor, applies at a tribunal for his son to be exempted from army service. As part of his argument in his appeal, he complains that whilst his son was the youngest married man in the Fire Brigade, it did not seem fair that two men who had loaned the Brigade since the outbreak of war should be conditionally exempted, whilst one of such long service should have to enlist. He also argued that whilst his son had been passed category A for service, he would have thought that the military authorities would have attached some importance to his sons legs which had been severely burned some years ago. This does seem to be a desperate appeal, as Councillor Dixon then goes on to state that the already had two boys who had enlisted and if Gainsford left he would be absolutely alone, meaning that he would have to give up the whole of his public work. He was a member of the Town Council and of about 20 committees including the Education Committee and the Grammar School Governors

which he would be sorry to give up. The Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade also supported the councillor's application stating that Gainsford was one of the most efficient men now in the brigade. However the arguments failed to impress the tribunal who refused the application.

On the 14th December Gainsford enlists into the Royal Engineers, despite having been a member of the 5th Battalion of the Essex Territorials, and is posted to the 308th Road Construction Company as a Pioneer, his regimental number being WR/21539. On the 15th December 1916 he is put in the reserve and is eventually posted on the 4th January 1917. On enlistment he is described at 28yrs of age 5ft 7ins weighing 125 lbs with a chest measurement of 34 inches and an expansion of 2 inches and has scars of old burns on both legs. He is also shown as living at 25 Nelson Road, Chelmsford.

On the 4th May 1918 he is appointed Acting Lance Corporal, but unfortunately he enters Hospital on the 25th May 1918 and on the 1st June he reverts to the rank of Pioneer.

Gainsford survives the war and eventually has two sons. The younger of these sons, Leonard Frederick Gainsford Dixon, dies in 1944 at the age of 21 of an illness, having joined the Fleet Air Arm before being transferred to the Royal Navy and was about to enter the Royal Naval College.

Gainsford dies on the 27th December 1965 whilst living at 90 Botany Road, Clifton, Margate.

Robert Victor Crozier

Robert Victor Crozier was born on the 27th January 1888, to Henry Nathaniel Crozier (1851-1920) and Mary Ann Shillitto (1852-1901) At the time of Robert's birth, Henry was a Licensed Victualler of the Dukes Head, Springfield Road, Springfield, Chelmsford.

He was also a member of the 2nd Batt Volunteer Yeomanry who over the years remained within the Yeomanry and rose to the rank of Colonel.

Henry eventually became a farmer and was heavily involved with the community, including being Clerk to the Course at Colchester Races and he was involved with Terrier Coursing. He was also involved with the Essex Quoit Association and was involved with Free Masonry in Chelmsford. He was involved as a Conservative member in the Chelmsford Parliamentary Debating Society.

On the 29th October 1873 Henry married Mary Ann Shillitto at St Leonard's Shoreditch, a marriage which lasted until Mary died in 1901 and during which they had 8 children, 3 sons and 5 daughters of which Ronald Victor was the third son.

Ronald Victor Crozier joined the Territorial Army in 1908 and appointed to the 2nd Eastern Mounted Brigade ASC Transport and Supply Column. In 1911 he is shown as a Surveyor of Roads (Foreman) and was volunteer Fireman in the Chelmsford Brigade. It is obvious that he enjoyed sports, football in particular, as he is mentioned several times in local newspapers as being named in Chelmsford football teams.

On 13th February 1915 he became a member of the regular army and was a drill instructor at Aldershot with the rank of Company Sergeant Major, and at the time was one of the youngest NCO's of his rank in the country.

On 5th March 1915, he was presented with a marble clock as a wedding present by Mr PT Harrison, the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade who said that the recipient had made a very good fireman and was making a very good soldier. Ronald had married Cora Cowlin of 119 London Road, Chelmsford, earlier that day.

Ronald remained in this country until 30th August 1916 when he was posted with the Expeditionary Force to Salonica on 31st August 1916. He remained in the Balkans until returning home on the 19th February 1919, being mentioned in despatches on 21 July 1917.

After the war he returned to Chelmsford where in 1920 he was living at White Lodge Farm, Sandon, and on the 21st October 1922, he can be found living at 50 Corporation Road, Chelmsford.

He remained in Chelmsford until his death in December 1965.

Simeon Lewis Sams (Samuels)

Simeon Lewis Sams (born Simeon Lewis Samuels) was born in January 1885, at Miles End, London, the third son of Godfrey Samuels and Maria Michaels, became a Fireman in Chelmsford, whilst being a Shop Assistant and Hon. Secretary of the Shop Assistants Association.

On 2nd of May 1914 he took part in the Shops Assistant Athletic Walk and came 1st. Being of an athletic disposition, on the 22nd August 1914 he took part in the Shop Assistants Athletic Club meeting 220 yards race and came 2nd. Two months later, however, he had volunteered for War service, and on Thursday 22nd October 1914 he was leaving on a train for London to join his unit the Royal Army Medical Corps as a volunteer fireman and stretcher bearer.

On the 5th March 1915 he was present at the fire station in Chelmsford for a presentation to another former member of the Brigade, R.V. Crozier. He is at this time an acting quarter master in the RAMC at a base hospital in France.

After the war, Simeon was listed in the Jewry Book of Honour published in 1922. He returned to the Chelmsford Fire Brigade after the war as in February 1923 he is part of a Fire Brigade Guard of Honour at the funeral of Walter Farrow, well know tradesman and councillor.

On 8th July 1924 he travelled first class aboard the Prinses Juliana of the Nederland Royal Mail from Southampton to Genoa returning on the 4th August 1924 aboard the Koningen der Nederland to Southampton.

On the 18th July 1927, Simeon married Julia Maria Hart at Westcliffe on Sea in Essex. He and his brother Samuel ran a successful clothiers store at 8, Baddow Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford under the name of SL and S Sams.

In 1935 he was living in Norfolk. He died in 1973 at the age of 88yrs, in Bristol.

Percy Wakeford Turrall

Percy Wakeford Turrall was born in 1883, the fourth son of Thomas and Ann Turrall, in Brentwood, Essex.

Between leaving school and 1915, when he joins the Chelmsford Fire Brigade as a volunteer fireman, he has spent 4 years in the Royal Horse Artillery, and has also married on the 23rd July 1912, Florence Reeve at Bosmere in Suffolk, his full time occupation being an Assistant Overseer and a Rate Collector, for Chelmsford Borough Council.

On the 29th May 1915 Percy joins the Volunteer Fire Brigade, to cover for vacancies created by other firemen joining the services, as his full time occupation was a protected one. However in late 1916, he enlists in the Royal Garrison Artillery as a Gunner/Signaller, his regimental number being 156961, this despite the fact that he has an injury to his right knee which entails an operation before joining up.

On his enlistment form for the army, he is shown as living as a boarder in Chelmsford, whilst his wife, Florence, is living at the High Street, Needham Market, Suffolk. He is also shown as being 5 ft 11 ins in height and in good health, having perfect vision. Despite the injury to his knee which is given a slight mention of his enlistment form, he is classified as Category A, meaning he is suitable for General Service overseas.

As a consequence of this he is sent in December 1917 to France. However within 7 months of his being there, the knee upon which he had the operation in 1915, gives way, causing him to fall down a cellar in Peronne, France on July 12 1918, and break his leg just below the hip.

He is returned to England and spends some time in the Command Depot at Catterick, North Yorkshire.

This situation comes to the notice of Chelmsford Borough Council, (possibly by Percy writing to his former boss) and the Town Clerk writes to the Army, requesting that Turrall be discharged, as they are given to understand that he may no longer be suitable for overseas service. The Town Clerk requests that he be released from the army so that he can return to his duties as Assistant Overseer and Rate Collector in Chelmsford, as they have an urgent need of his services, having voluntarily released another Assistant Overseer and Rate Collector, a Mr A.S. Lowe, for military service. This has meant that at this time the whole of the rates in the Borough of Chelmsford amounting to approximately £40,000 per annum are being collected by one permanent official over 50 years of

age and one temporary assistant who is considerably over the age of 70! As a consequence it is impossible for them to carry out their present duties properly.

On the 7th November 1918 another letter is sent from the Town Clerk, expressing astonishment at the fact that Turrall has been passed out from the Command Depot at Catterick without a medical board and sent for further training at Fort Nelson in Fareham, Hampshire. The letter also demands a medical board to prove that Turrall is not fit for active duty. This letter seems to have some effect as on the 13th November 1918 A.W Hooper, Captain RGA (Acting Adjutant, Siege Artillery Signalling Depot) sent a message to the Medical Officer i/c Troops at Fort Nelson, requesting that Gunner Turrall is medically examined to see if he is fit for General Service, and on the 8th January 1919 Turrall had his medical board, the result of which was that he was found to have 20% disability in his knee and was thus downgraded from Category A to Category B(1).

On the 3rd February 1919 Turrall was issued with his Protection Certificate and Certificate of Identity for a Soldier not remaining with the Colours and left the Army.

On the 23rd April 1919, Turrall writes to the paymaster at Dover Barracks, complaining that he has not heard anything regarding his claim for compensation for his fall in France and asking what is being done and in May 1919 Turrall was given a provisional pension of 5 shillings and sixpence (27 1/2 p) for a 20% disability to his right knee.

Turrall obviously returns to the work as an Assistant Overseer and Rate Collector, as in September 1920 he is prosecuting in a rates hearing against a Mrs Alice Gamble for non payment of rates.

The injury to his knee did not however preclude him from playing cricket as on the 8th July 1921 he scores 13 runs for Chelmsford against Broomfield in which Chelmsford win by 160 runs to 105 and in 1928 he is the Captain of the Chelmsford Cricket Team, which also includes his brother W.T. Turrall. However in later years the injury he had received did have an effect and he had to give up playing cricket, although he still remained involved with the sport.

He does not appear to have undertaken his volunteer fireman role upon his return to civilian life, but in 1927 he is promoted to Chief Rate Collector for the Borough of Chelmsford

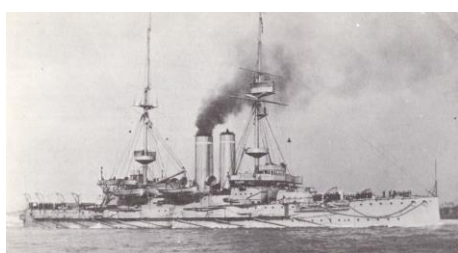
He died in Chelmsford on the 17th May 1941 after a long and painful illness and probate of £2362.19 shillings was granted in Llandudno to Florence Ethel Turrall, his widow, and her brother John Charley Reeve, a local government officer.

Albert Wells

Albert Edward Wells was born in July 1878 to Albert George, a Ships Steward and Louisa in Portsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, living at 3 Elm Street, Portsea. After schooling, he becomes a labourer and then on 1st October 1895, stating his age was 18yrs and that he had been born on the 1st October 1877, when in he was only 17 years having been born in July 1878. he signed on for a period of 12 years on the Royal Navy. On joining he was described as being 5ft 4ins in height,



with brown hair, hazel eyes and a fair/fresh complexion. He had Ships flags tattooed on his left forearm and Love and dots on the back of left forearm. His naval number was 172003.



HMS Goliath, one of the ships Albert served

During his service he served upon numerous ships, which included Inflexible, Alexandra, Excellent Erebus, Goliath Hampshire and on two occasions, HMS Victory.

His years in service did not, however, go without mishap.

In 1894, he is served papers in relation to fraudulent sale of his kit to a Pawnbrokers in Portsea for which he received 14 days in the cells and in 1890, he was charged with

improperly leaving ship and returning drunk, for which he

received a punishment of Half Rate of pay for 42 days. Apart from these two offences, he would appear to have been of good character, as nearly all the reports from the ships he served on, report that his character was good or very good.

In 1908 Albert marries Florence Louisa Hubbard and on the 11 September 1909 he leaves the Royal Navy and joins the Royal Navy Reserve at Chatham. having served 14 years.

He then joins the fire brigade in Bromley, Kent, and on 29th December 1912, he becomes the resident fireman at Chelmsford, Essex. It is noticeable that at this time he has changed his name to Albert George Wells, the same as his father.

Three months after joining the Chelmsford brigade, on the 9th March 1912 he is involved in a serious accident as the following report in the Chelmsford Chronicle indicates;-

“AG Wells (resident Fireman) met with a serious accident on Saturday night. He has attended a Fire Brigade meeting at Brentwood and was cycling home. In coming down Three Mile Hill in Margaretting his machine collided with a trap owned by Mr Wilson of Chelmsford. Mr Wells was rendered unconscious and had a nasty cut to his chin. He was eventually taken to Chelmsford Hospital. He was found to be suffering from slight concussion and two broken bones in his leg below the knee.”

On the 29th March, at the Chelmsford council meeting, payment of full wages to the resident fireman was approved by the council.

On the 26th April 1912, at the council meeting, it was reported that the Resident Fireman's leg was nearly healed but owing to excessive swelling, it had not been discovered that his jaw was broken until he had been in hospital sometime after his admission.

On the 1st November 1912, the title Resident Fireman was changed to Superintendent.

In June 1914, there is a report Superintendent AG Wells is leaving Chelmsford Brigade to take up the position as Chief Brigade Officer under Woodford Urban Council. He was entertained to dinner at the Golden Fleece Inn and was presented with a handsome eight day clock subscribed for by his colleagues

.Albert moves to Woodford, but is not there long when World War 1 breaks out and he is recalled to the Navy and is serving on HMS Sutlej as a leading seaman. In 1915 he is posted to HMS Pembroke He was later posted to HMS Patrol.

On the 18th August 1918 he is invalided out of the Service due to Neurasthenia

He rejoins the Fire Service and moves to Yorkshire.

On 24th November 1944 Albert Edward Wells, (it would appear that he has reverted to his own baptised name again) dies at the age of 65 years at 34 Factory Lane, Milnsbridge, Yorkshire.

Herbert Windley

Born in 1876 in Mashbury Chelmsford, Essex to Alfred Windley (an Agricultural Worker) and Charlotte Windley nee Ellis. In 1881 he can be found living at Sparrowend, Chelmsford. By 1891 he has moved and is living as a boarder at 2 High Street, Finchley and is working as a butchers assistant for James Tansley, butcher of that same address. In 1901 he is living with his Uncle, Charles H Abbott, in Camberwell, London and his occupation is now a bread baker.

On the 29th June 1904 he marries Alice Eva Pannell, and in 1911 he can be found living at 2 Jubilee Cottages, High Easter, Chelmsford, he occupation now being a Farm Labourer. At this time he has 4 children, Florence May, Winifred Ethel, Victor H Cecil and Horace Owen.

In 1910 he joins the Chelmsford Fire Brigade as in 1925 he receives his bronze medal and bar for 15 years service with the Brigade. He retires from the Brigade in March 1933.

During his service with the Brigade, in August 1914 he was judge in annual sports of Chelmsford elementary schools at Chelmsford Recreation Ground in August Chelmsford chronicle 23rd December and in 1910 at the Annual competition of Chelmsford Fire Brigade held at Market Place in Chelmsford he came 5th in One Man Hydrant drill in which competitors had to race 25 yards, fix a standpipe, run out two lengths of hose and put a branch on. He came 8th in the hose cart drill in which competitors had to run 30 yards put helmet and tunic on, run hose cart 20 yards, fix standpipe and run out one length of hose. He came 7th in the one man engine drill in which the

competitors put on helmet and tunic, put suction into dam, lock fleece carriage, run out length of hose and fix the branch.

In July 1932 he attends the funeral of Edith Murkin, wife of Superintendent Murkin of the Chelmsford Brigade.

He remains in Chelmsford and dies there in June 1944 at the age of 79 years.

James Charles Diaper.

James Charles Diaper was born on 17th April 1861 at Mile End, London to James Diaper (a Seaman) and Sarah nee Levett. At the age of 12 he went to sea and rounded Cape Horn several times in a Windjammer. In 1881, he joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and on 1st July 1884 he married Mary Ann Castleman at the parish church of St Paul, Canonbury, Islington, London. In 1891 he is living at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station West India Dock Road, London and by 1901 he has moved to 3 Park Terrace, Deptford, at which time he has a family consisting of 5 Daughters, Dorothy L 15 yrs, Mary Ann 11yrs, Rosina A 7 yrs, Blanche L 4 yrs, and Winifred P, 2 yrs and 2 sons, James Charles 7yrs and William H 10 months. In 1906 he retired from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade after 25 years and having received a good conduct medal, and at this time he was living at 162 Killearn Road, Catford S.E. London and was in receipt of a pension from the Brigade. On 2nd August 1907 he was appointed as Superintendent of the Chelmsford Brigade with pay of 30 shillings per week, with house rent free, uniform, clothing and boots when needed. During World War 1 he joined the 24th Rifle Brigade and was promoted to Corporal. His regimental number was 206248 and he served in Mesopotamia. He died on 21 February 1942 at the age of 81 whilst living at 371 Blackfen Road, Sidcup, Kent.

Whilst being Superintendent at Chelmsford, Diaper was quite a controversial character, and this started shortly after his appointment, when in October 1908 he attended the annual dinner of the Chelmsford Brigade. During his reply to toast to the Fire Brigade proposed by chairman of the fire brigade committee, Superintendent Diaper eulogised the activity of his men, however there was always difficulty in getting horses. He referred to a recent fire in Stock on the 20th September. He stated that he thought the council would like the fire engine to go faster than 4 mph and on the occasion of this fire they had two horses. It was said that one of the horses had been at a funeral the day before and it evidently thought that it was going to a funeral then! (Laughter). The other horse had been at Southend the day before and was to go to the same place that day, so they could not drive it hard. In fact things had got so bad that he had to order his men to get off the engine and help shove it along.

Unfortunately for Diaper, his comments were reported in the newspaper and came to the attention of the horse owners, Messrs TA Holland and Son, who complained in writing to the Fire Brigade Committee stating that statements made by Diaper were incorrect, and also complaining about the retaining fee for the provision of horses and requesting the cancellation of the agreement unless the Fire Brigade Committee increase considerably the retaining fee of £5.00 per annum. Diaper,

who was present at the meeting, admitted making the observation complained of and stated that he had only repeated information given to him by other people. The Fire Brigade Committee reprimanded the Superintendent and cautioned him not to make statements in public in relation to brigade matters.

However at the meeting of the full council to which the Fire Brigade's Committee report was submitted it was noticed that the report was not signed by the Chairman of the committee or by anyone else. As this was the case an alderman pointed out that the report should not be considered by the council, a point to which the Town Clerk agreed. The mayor proposed acceptance of the report when the chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee, Councillor Gowers, stated that the committee did not reprimand the Superintendent and so he refused to sign the report.

Councillor Gowers then withdrew his motion and the Mayor proposed acceptance of the motion and was seconded by Councillor Farrow "in order to get on with it"

Councillor Lunney then spoke and said " What Councillor Gower says is quite correct. A cruel wrong has been done to our Superintendent. He has done his duty and because of this you want to get rid of him. I can prove that his life is a misery owing to the way he has been treated by members of the council. He was not asked to come there to be reprimanded . He was locked outside and brought in like a convict"

After further fiery discussions the council agreed to accept the report with the word 'reprimanded' being deleted.

It is obvious that things were not good between the council and the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade..... and this was to remain the case.

On the 17th June 1909, Superintendent Diaper, together with Councillor Franklin attended a meeting of the Professional Fire Brigade Association in London.

At the meeting of the Council, on the 30th June 1909 the Chief Officer of the Brigade submitted a letter of complaint reporting Diaper, a) for breach of discipline in that he, Diaper, had absented himself on the 17th June without permission and attending the Fire Brigade Congress on that day and b) referring to the complaint made by some members of the Brigade to the Chairman that special duty for which payment is made is not given to members in rotation.

Diaper, at a later stage of the meeting attended by request and admitted that he had not received permission from the Chairman to be absent. The chief officer of the Brigade, Cuthbert Brown, stated that he is of the opinion that Diaper is absolutely incompetent to discharged his duties as Superintendent of the Brigade and that Diaper is always doing something beyond his duties and upsetting everyone. It was proposed by Councillor Clarkson and seconded by Alderman Taylor "That in the interests of the Borough it is desirable that Mr Diaper be called upon to resign his office of Superintendent of the Fire Brigade"

An amendment was proposed by Alderman Thompson and seconded by Councillor F.G. Smith " That the question and whole of the issues arising from the Chief Officer's letter of the 30th June be referred for special consideration, with the Chief Officer at a special committee" This was approved. The Superintendent was informed of the opinions expressed by the Chief Officer and was given the choice of taking time to consider the matter. He lectern to reply at a further date. It was also recommended that the Town Clerk notify Mr Diaper of the allegations made.

October 27th 1909

As a result of reports of a committee which was held in camera, it was decided that Superintendent Diaper be requested to attend an adjourned meeting of the council and that meanwhile particulars be given to Diaper as to the charge brought by the surveyor, for the first time that evening (October 1st) as to No.2 Steam Engine. Diaper attended the adjourned meeting of the council and presented a written reply to the Borough surveyor's report as to the engine.

After a lengthy discussion of the matter in council, it was ultimately resolved that unless Mr Diaper voluntarily resigned the position of Superintendent of the Fire Brigade within 3 months from that date (October 7th) the Town Clerk at the expiration of such 3 months should give him one months notice in writing terminating his engagement.

31st December 1909

Councillor Hewell moved to rescind the resolution passed on the 7th October that unless Mr Diaper resigns his position within 3 months he should be given a months notice. Councillor Hewell said that he was very much surprised to hear the Chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee say that the Fire Engine was thoroughly satisfactory. He (the speaker) had examined it and it was dropping between 18-20 times a minute. It was very dangerous to work a boiler leaking to that extent and to say it was perfectly satisfactory was perfectly ridiculous. The council had been told that Diaper was incapable, but he was not incapable. He had been " badgered from one thing to the other maliciously". Councillor Lunney seconded the motion and said Superintendent Diaper was a man of unblemished character and was going to be sent out into the winter with his wife and family for no reason whatsoever. He was being tried behind his back. Councillor F G Smith said that Diaper was being well looked after by those upon his side. The charges against him had been narrowed down to one small point - whether the engine leaked. Diaper said that it was and the Chief Officer said it was not. He(councillor Smith) believed the boiler inspector had found it was leaking and reported that it was leaking and ought to be repaired. Diaper was quite competent to repair it, but was not allowed to do it. Cr. Franklin (chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee) said Diaper came before the council and had had a fair hearing. No one charged him with being incompetent. The motion to rescind was lost.

In a meeting on the 28 Jan 1910, the deputy Mayor stated that in his opinion, Diaper lost his situation because certain members of this council had tried to run him against the Surveyor. There

has been an endeavour to set our Superintendent above the chief Officer and that he believed that those who do this are responsible for Diaper losing his job.

In January 1911, Mr James C Diaper the late Superintendent of the Fire Brigade brought an action against Mr Cuthbert Brown, Borough Surveyor and Chief Officer of the Brigade, for damages for alleged slander and libel consisting of statements

- (1) made in a meeting of the Fire Brigade committee on the 11th July 1909 and
- (2) In a report subsequently presented to such committee by their definite request.

The action has been settled before it went to Court, upon the following terms
"All imputations withdrawn on both sides. Record to be withdrawn and action to be discontinued and no costs to either side".

However the matter did not end there. It later emerged that the solicitors fee for the Borough Surveyor Cuthbert Brown came to £243 3s 7d and the Fire Brigade Committee recommended that the council pay this amount to Mr Brown, Solicitor. Again another fiery discussion took place in council during which it came to light that Diaper wanted and received £50 in order to drop the action against Brown. It transpired that an alderman and a councillor paid the money between them.

During the following year Diaper re-applied to the council for his job as Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, but his letter was not replied to.

George Byatt

George was born in 1858 in Chelmsford, Essex to William, a bricklayer's labourer and Emma. Two years later his brother Arthur was born and in 1861 the family are living at 10 Compass Row, Chelmsford.

In 1865 his sister Mary A was born. Four years later in 1869 his sister Emma was born and the following year William was born.

In 1872, when he was 14, his mother Emma dies and in 1878 his father remarries to Mary Ann Gardner who has already borne a child in 1877, a half-brother, Jesse Byatt and in 1880 his parents have another child, a half-sister Martha.

In 1881 the family have moved to 34 Springfield Terrace Chelmsford and in the following year in 1882, George marries MaryAnn Clements in Chelmsford and in the same year he joins the Chelmsford Volunteer Fire Brigade. After his marriage it would appear that he moved to 9 Embankment Terrace, Chelmsford which is his address in 1901, however in 1896 a George Byatt a fireman of Embankment Terrace and a William Prail, a Stoker of Marriage's Square were charged with making an affray, in New Street outside the Wheatsheaf Inn, at about 11.00pm on

Saturday 15 April. Praill was defended and the case against him was dismissed. Byatt was required to be bound over in the sum of £5.00 to keep the peace for six months and to pay costs of 8s 6d

As mentioned above George is living at 9 Embankment Terrace and has six children Gertrude M. 16 yrs, Alice B 13 yrs, Ethel E 11 yrs, George W 9yrs Emma L. 7yrs and Daisy M 2 yrs. His occupation was a bricklayer.

In 1904 George comes first in the Fire Brigade competitions in the ladder, bucket of water and hand pump race and later the committee and Fire Brigade members were entertained to supper at the Saracens Head Hotel by the Mayor.

In 1907 following a dispute with the council the Chelmsford Volunteer Brigade resigned en mass and when George resigns he had 25 years Service with the Brigade.

Little is known of him until 1916 when he rejoins the Chelmsford Fire Brigade and in 1925, Engineer Byatt resigns after a total of 34yrs service

He died in Chelmsford in September 1930.

Frederick George Bignall

Frederick was born in 1872 to Jacob a Dairyman and. Mary Ann nee Warren he had on elder sister Emily when he was born and by 1881 he had three younger siblings, Cecil C. 7yrs Anne 3yrs and Maud M A who had just been born, and in 1881 the family was living in Rose Hill, Braintree.

In 1895 his father dies and three yeas later in 1898 Frederick marries Frances Cornelia Reeve, in the Chelmsford Registration district. By 1901 Frederick has moved to 4 Steamer Row, Railway Street, Chelmsford. and he has a one year old daughter, Florence. His occupation is a House painter.

In 1910 Frederick becomes a member of the Chelmsford Fire Brigade and in the Fire Brigade competitions held in the Market Place, Chelmsford. on Saturday 17" December 1910, Frederick comes 6th in the One Man Hydrant Drill, in which competitors had to race 25 yards, fix a standpipe, run out two lengths of hose and fix a branch and 4th in the One man Engine Drill in which the competitors had to put on helmet and tunic put suction into dam lock for carnage run out length of hose and fix branch, which he did in 421/2 seconds

At the end of the competition he was awarded a special prize, this being his first year of membership of the brigade.

By 1911 the family have moved to 45 Townfield street Chelmsford. Frederick is still a house painter and his family has grown, by 5, Ena aged 9, Gertrude aged 7 Frederik George 5. Annie aged 3 and Alfred aged 6 months.

Frederick does not serve in World War I and serves for nearly 25 years in the Brigade.
Frederick George, his son (more commonly known as George, also becomes the youngest man in the district at the age of 18)

In October 1930 Frederick becomes Station officer of the Chelmsford Brigade and retires in that position in 1933.

Frederick dies on the 24 July 1944 with probate going to Frederick George Bignall, a window cleaner. At the time of his death he is living at 'Emhurst', Coral Lane Chelmsford.

Henry Thomas Cowell

Henry was born in 1885 to John Cowell a House Painter and Hannah Cowell nee Paveley, in Chelmsford, Essex. At the time of his birth he had three elder siblings John, Ernest and Alice S. and by 1891 he had a younger sister Louis F.

Ten years later, the Family are living in Springfield and Henry has a younger brother Harry and Henry has become a bricklayer's labourer.

On 24th September 1904 Henry marries Lilly Emily at Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex and by 1911 he is living at 20 Regina Road, New Street, Chelmsford, and he has two children Amy 4 and Doris 9 mths. Henry's occupation is a Bricklayer. It is not known when he joins the Chelmsford Volunteer Fire Brigade, but in the 1913 Brigade competitions, he comes 1st in the One Man Drill 2nd in the Four men Hose Cart Drill with Murkiri Evans and Newman and 2nd in the wet Steamer Drill again with Murkin, Evans and Newman.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist immediately but on 20th November 1915, he is attested and his regimental number is 225258 and he is a member of the Royal Engineers Road Construction Unit.. He later transfers to Stn Stores company Royal Engineers with a regimental number of W R/ 21514 and has the rank of Corporal. and he leaves the army on 27 Sept 1919 and was despatched to England On 10" October 1919 .

After the war he returns to the Chelmsford Fire Brigade and in 1922 at the Chelmsford Fire Brigade Sports he comes 2nd in the one man Hydrant Drill, 2nd in the Hose Cart Drill, 2nd in the Escape Drill, 2nd in the Steamer competition and 1st in the comic race.

In 1923 he was involved in the rescue of some horses from a fire, together with Supt Murkin and Horseman Hills both of whom received medals for their part. There was some considerable uproar in the press as to why Henry did not receive a medal as well.

In 1926 Henry leaves the Brigade and stands for the local council in which he was successful. In 1930 he attends the funeral of George Byatt, representing the Fire Brigade Committee and by 1933 he has become Vice chairman of that committee and in 1939 Henry attends the funeral of Harry Garfield Evans.

It is believed that Henry died in 1941.

Walter Farrow.

Walter was born in 1855 to Henry Farrow, a gas filter and, Louisa A Farrow nee Brown. At the time of his birth he had one elder sister Deborah and by 1861, when the family lived at the Gas Works, Springfield, Chelmsford. he had another sister, Agnes. Ten years later he has two further siblings Henry and Joseph. By this time the family have moved to New Street, Chelmsford and his father is a gas filter and ironmonger and Walter 'occupation' is shown as a gas filters son. On 13 March 1880 Waiter name's Mary Ann Golding at St Olave, Hart Street, City of London and by 1881 he is living at 3 Crishall Terrace, Primrose Hill, Chelmsford and his occupation is a Plumber and Gas filter.

In December 1886 Walter writes the following letter to the editor of the Essex Herald

“Sir - I you will allow me I will make a suggestion for one thing to be done at Chelmsford in memory of the Queen’s jubilee. It is that a proper fire station be built and that a proper volunteer fire brigade be formed, which, with your help and a gentleman to take the lead can be very easily done. I will give you my idea how it can be done at very little expense. Let the fire station be built on a piece of the new market ground , the other side of the shops occupied by Messrs Golding, Catt etc or by the side of Mr Pash’s Implement warehouse. It can be built so that the two engines , hose etc.can be kept on the ground floor, and with rooms above to be used by a man, say one of the firemen, to live there rent free. To take charge of the things kept there and also to be on the spot at night is required. This would be the first place for the firemen to receive orders if a fire should break out. Then I suggest that a contract for horsing the engines be taken, so that they will be ready for use when required and then the brigade can have a false alarm, say one or twice a month, whichever they like, and have the horses turned out for practise. I would also suggest that there should be two hose reels on wheels much the same as the firemen use in America. In the case of a fire anywhere within the reach of the fire hydrants, two men can take the reel and hose, connect it and get it to work without delay. The present old truck takes four men to pull and they can only walk with and they have to take the hose out in separate lengths and connect them, which takes up a lot of time, especially when the men are turning the couplings the wrong way to screw the together. I also propose that the firemen’s uniform shall be kept at the station. The uniform can be hung on pegs with the number of each fireman placed above ; so if a man is in the town he will not have to go home, as some firemen are likely to live on the borders of the town. I would for my own part make one of the volunteers and could guarantee to get as good a volunteer fire brigade together as any in Essex or any other county. A friend of mine who is a superintendent of a brigade in the busiest part of London would give me any information respecting it but we must have some gentleman to take the lead. I am sure we could get the amount by subscriptions for building the station,, which would not cost much for the ratepayers to keep up once established.”

The following week the Essex Herald publishes an article which supports the idea put forward by Walter.

By 1889, Walter has become Superintendent of the Chelmsford Volunteer Fire Brigade, when he attends a large fire at the premises of Messrs Christy and Norris millwrights and agricultural and electric engineers on Broomfield Rd.

He remains as Superintendent until April 1907 when the Chelmsford Brigade resigned en bloc, following a dispute about their efficiency and competency. In July of that year the 'old' brigade as it became known were entertained to dinner at the King William IV Inn, the funds being raised by public subscription, and every member of the 'old' brigade was presented with three photographs suitably inscribed. Two of the portraits were of the members in uniform and the third showed the men with their tunics packed up ready to hand in upon their resignation.

In 1907 Mr W Farrow late Superintendent of the Fire Brigade stood as a candidate for the council.

By 1911 Walter is living at 7 New Street, Chelmsford and his occupation is a plumber. His family are still living with him and his wife Mary.

In January 1914 his son Walter died as a result of contracting rheumatism and a chill in November, which resulted in complications which affected fatally his heart which had been weakened in his youth by fever. He too had been a member of the Chelmsford Fire Brigade for a short time.

Needless to say, Walter does not enlist in the armed services during the World War 1 due to his age, however in 1915, the Fire Brigade Sub Committee, of which he is a member, reported that they had augmented the Brigade by 15 Volunteer firemen of which Walter was one. They would receive no remuneration and arrangements had been made for the volunteer firemen to be called upon for any outbreak of fire occurring through an air raid.

During the remaining duration of the war he remains active as a Councillor and as a Volunteer Fireman.

On Monday 5th February 1923 Walter was walking along Legg Street, Chelmsford, when he suddenly collapsed and fell. A Doctor who was passing at the time, carried him into his home which was close by and his own medical attendant Dr T.H.Walker was sent for but Walter had passed away death being due to heart disease.

Clacton

David Wall.

David was born in Gays, Essex in 1853 to William Wall, a Hair Dresser and Susan nee Jeffries. The family were living at Towsons Cottages, Grays Essex. He has one elder brother Joseph and in 1860 another brother Charles was born.

By 1871 David has become an ordinary seaman and is employed on board the Monkwearmouth of Colchester.

In 1874 he joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and in 1881 he is living to the Fire Station Bishopgate Street, Bishopgate, London,

David remained in the Metropolitan fire Brigade for 28 Years, during which time he was commended several times for gallant conduct and received medals for life saving. One award was for a brave attempt to rescue a patient from a blazing mental home in Catford. He reached the patient who was however dead.

In 1882 he marries Fanny Amelia Turner in Orsett and in 1901 he is living at the Fire Station, High street Lewisham and he has two daughters Violet and Ivy.

In 1901 he moves to married quarters at the Fire Station, Lindsell Street, Greenwich and he has two further her children, Gordon and Harold.

In 1902 he moves to Clacton to undertake the reorganisation of the Clacton Volunteer Fire Brigade and is living at 10 Lyndhurst, Meredith Road, Clacton on Sea. In the same year as he moves, his daughter Ivy aged 11 receives a parchment certificate from the Royal Humane Society for saving the life of a child in the Medway at Tonbridge. David displays good leadership of the Clacton Brigade and a high Standard of efficiency. It is reached and in 1905 the Clacton Fire Brigade won the Clinton Challenge Cup at Crystal Palace.

In 1911, he is still living in Meredith Road and the census reveals that they have lost three children, and also reveals that David and Frances have had 3 further children, Leslie, Ruth and Faith.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he remains as Superintendent of the Clacton Brigade until 1916 when he should retire at the age of 60. He then volunteers for service as a fireman in a shell filling factory and continued there throughout the war.

During the General strike of 1926, even though he was over 70 years of age, he joined the Special Constabulary taking the rank of Inspector.

David dies on the 24th April 1938 at his home address Lyndhurst, Meredith Road, Clacton on Sea and administration went to Frances Amelia his widow and his son Harold William Wall, a company director.

Sidney King

Sidney King was born in 1865 in Kensington, London to Henry King (a builder) and Mary Ann nee Marks. Between his birth and his marriage on 25th May 1898, he lived at Clare Cottage, Clarence Place, Kensington.

On the 25th May 1898 he married Edith Mitchenall, at the Wesleyan Chapel in Denbigh Road, London and it would appear that he then moved with his wife to Clacton, where he became a founder member of the Clacton Fire Brigade.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he did not enlist immediately even though he was a member of the National Reserve and also a private in the Volunteer Battalion of the 2nd Essex Regiment, but in January 1915 he enlists at the age of 49 and serves with the Royal Defence Corps on the home front between 15th January 1915 until he is demobilised on the 12th March 1919, his regimental number being 18478.

Upon demobilisation he returns to his occupation of a plasterer and being a member of the Clacton Fire Brigade, however this is not to last for long, as unfortunately, he dies in 1920 at the age of 55 yrs. At his time he had been married Edith for 20 years and had 4 children, Elsie Edith, George William, Lillian Amy and Frank Sidney. His address at the time of his death was Newton Villa, Berkley Road, Great Clacton.

William Wyatt

William Wyatt was born in 1868 in Wix, Essex to James Wyatt and Caroline nee King.

In 1881 William was living with his family in a cottage in Colchester Road, Wix and was working as a Farm Boy at the age of 12. He was the youngest of six, his siblings being Arthur, Maurice, Elizabeth, Caroline and Tryphena. He married in July 1898 in Samford Suffolk to Emma Stiff.



He did not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1, probably because of age, however he joined the Clacton Fire Brigade in 1916 at the age of 48 and in 1926 he is awarded his 10 year long service medal.

He died on the 4th September at the County Hospital Bedford, his home address being 62 St Osyth Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

Charles Marshall

Charles Marshall was born in 1881 in Bourn, Cambridgeshire to David Darlow Marshall (an agricultural labourer) and Mary Ann Marshall, a laundress. He had two elder sisters, Luisa ,14 when he was born and Maria who was 12.

By 1901 he had moved with his parents and sister Maria to Clacton on Sea and can be found living at 1, Dorset Terrace, Walton Road, Clacton. In 1902 he has marries Cerulia Elizabeth Sharman in Tendering, Essex and by 1911 he is living at Isledon Lodge Old Road, Clacton on sea and his occupation is a Tailor.

In 1912 he joins to the Clacton Fire Brigade. At the outbreak of War he does not appear to enlist but would appear to have remained in the Fire Brigade.

In February 1933 he becomes Superintendent of the Clacton Fire Brigade upon the death of the Mr G.A. Jeffers, having been the second officer of the brigade and a member for 20 years

In 1938, shortly before he retires he is involved in a dramatic rescue of 3 males from London who had got into trouble whilst swimming near to Clacton Pier.during which he made a seaman chair from some rope and together with other holidaymakers pulled one of the swimmers to safety.

Later in the same year he retires from the Brigade as Superintendent and is presented with a silver watch in appreciation of the work he has undertaken, which has included attending 344 fires whilst in the Brigade.

He dies in 1949 in Clacton at the age of 68.

William Drane.

Born in 1872 in Kirton, Suffolk to John Drane an agricultural labourer and Susannah. He had 5 siblings. Henry, Emma, John,Samuel and Sarah, and in 1881 they are living in street, Kirton. By 1891 the family have moved to Great Oakley in Essex and he has become a Farm Labourer. He also has an additional brother Charles 4 yeas, of age.

On 15th October 1898 he marries Alice Cook at St James church Weybridge Surrey

and by 1911, William and Alice are living at 1 Forbury Villas, Olivers Road, Clacton on Sea, William's occupation being a Roadman working for the county council and he has two sons Albert, 10 yrs and Herbert 8yrs and a daughter Maud 3 yrs.

He does not enlist in the armed services at the outbreak of war in 1914, however in 1916 he joins the Clacton Fire Brigade as in December 1926 he is presented with a medal to mark 10 years service with the Brigade.

William Drane dies on the 13 December 1953 whilst living at Heath land, Olivers Road Clacton on Sea.

George Arthur Jeffers

George was born on 26/8/71 to Peter and Amelia Jeffers.

His father, Peter, was an Agricultural Labourer and. was aged 55yrs whereas Amelia his wife was 35 yrs of age. George had 4 elder siblings, Harry, Walter, Alice and Frederick and one younger, Bertie

On 10th December 1886, George joins the Royal Navy and his first ship is the training ship HMS Impregnable and. his Service number was 139891, and at the age of 18 yeas he signs on for a period of 12 years. He was described as 5ft 6ins with Black hair and having dark eyes and a dark complexion..

From the 1st December 1888 until 22 May 1889 he was posted to HMS Vernon, which was a shore based establishment, established 26th April 1876 as the Royal Navy's Torpedo branch.

On 23th May he was posted to HMS Volage: HMS Volage was a Volage class corvette built for the Royal Navy on the late 1860's and was eventually transferred to the training Squadron during the 1880's

On 7" December 1889 until 13 May 1890 George was posted to HMS Monarch. Monarch was the first seagoing British warship to carry her guns in turrets. and the first British warship to carry guns of 12inch calibre.

After HMS Monarch, he was briefly attached to HMS Wildfire and then from the 1st June 1890 he was posted to HMS Howe until 14th October 1891.

The Howe was an Admiral class ironclad battleship. At the time George was serving on her, she was a guard ship in Ireland.

On 4" December 1891 George was invalided to shore reason unknown.

By 1895 George has returned home and has become a member of the Clacton Fire Brigade

where he served for 38 years being appointed Superintendent during World War 1

By 1901 he has married Jemima and in 1911 he is living at 2 Rose Cottages, St Osyth Road, Clacton on Sea and his occupation is a Bricklayer and has 2 children, Archibald Arthur and Elsie May. He was also well known in the Clacton Area as a Boatman.

In 1933 he dies in Clacton from pneumonia.

Frederick George Mathams

Frederick was born in 1872 in Camberwell, London, to George Jas. Mathams, a carpenter and Elizabeth nee Exell. By 1881, the family has expanded and Frederick has one elder sister Alice and 3 younger brothers, Harry, George and William Charles and 1 younger sister Grace, and have moved to Great Clacton.

By 1891 he has another sister May and the family are living at 5 Anchor Villas, Great Clacton and Frederick has followed his father and become a carpenter and joiner.

In 1894 Frederick marries Harriett Wotton in the Tendering district of Essex.

In 1896 Frederick joins the Clacton Fire Brigade as in 1907 he is awarded a long service medal for 11 years service.

In 1900 Frederick is a private in the Essex Volunteers and scores the highest score in a rifle competition with a score of 61. Unfortunately the match which was between Clacton on Sea and Chelmsford and took place at Middlewick was won by the Chelmsford team (B company) by 419 to 390.

In 1907 in the last of preliminary rounds of the Battalion "Twenty" competition of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Essex Regiment, Frederick was amongst the chief scorers with a shoot score of 82. and was also in the preliminary round counting the two best shots with a score of 156 At the annual prize meeting of the Clacton Volunteers held at Jaywick, Frederick wins the Exon cup.

In 1911 he is living a 2 Cotswold Road, Clacton and has 3 daughters, Annie Elizabeth, Grace Lillian and Violet May, his occupation is a carpenter.

In 1948 his sister Mary Lilian dies in St Albans Hertfordshire and the following on Remembrance Day 11 November 1949 Frederick dies at Oakdale station Road Thorington, Essex with probate going to Grace Lilian Mathams, spinster.

Frederick Edward Wilby

Frederick was born in 1859 to Samuel Wilby, a Groom and Emma nee Man in Fordham. Essex. In 1861 he was living in Mill Road, Fordham and had a younger brother George who was 1 Month old.

In 1871 the family has grown in size and he now has another two brothers, Arthur and George and a younger sister Rose. and is a Farm Labourer.

In 1881 at the age of 22yrs Frederick is a lodger at the Globe Inn, 18 Military Road Colchester and his occupation is a Bricklayer.

Five years later, in 1886, he marries Alice Louisa Jeffers in Tendering and in 1891 Frederick and his family are living at Rose Cottage, Great Clacton and his occupation is a Bricklayer and Chimney Sweep. He now has a son Percival and a daughter Isabell.

In 1896 he joins the Clacton Fire Brigade as in 1907 he is awarded a Long Service medal for 11 years involvement with the brigade.

Little can be found in relation to Frederick after this date until his death in 1943 which is reported in the WWII Civilian Deaths 1939-1945 which states that Frederick Edward Wilby aged 84, husband of Alice Louisa Wilby of 45 Oxford Road Clacton on Sea, Essex, was injured on 9th September 1940 at Poplar, London and died 23rd July 1943 at Knowle Lodge, Oakhampton Devon.

Walter George Cattermole

Walter was born in 1862 in Saxmundham, Suffolk to Thomas Cattermole, an agricultural Labourer and Elizabeth nee Mills and they lived in Channty Bow, Saxmundham. He had 3 elder siblings, Henry, Arthur and Clara

On 1st January 1877, he joins the Royal Navy. as a Boy sailor and his s number is 98783 this first ship is HMS Penelope.

HMS Penelope was an armoured corvette which was launched in 1867. The ship spent 1868 with the Channel Fleet before she was assigned to the First Reserve Squadron and in 1869 she became the coast guard ship for Harwich until 1887, So at the time William joined her, she would have been on the this last posting at Harwich.

On 20th August 1879, he signs on for 10 years.

He is described at this time as being 5ft 2ins, he has light coloured hair, blue eyes and fair complexion. He has a tattoo on his wrist.

He is now serving aboard HMS Audacious which was the lead ship of the Audacious class ironclads built by the Royal Navy in 1860's and spent most of her career on the China Station

On the 14 October 1879, after a period of two weeks at the Naval Barracks he is posted to HMS Salamis. The Salamis was a paddle steamer which was used as a dispatch Vessel and was only

lightly armed.

In January 1883 he was posted to HMS Duncan. In April 1883 he is posted to HMS Repulse which was an ironclad ship launched in 1868 and was sold in 1889. His last ship was HMS Devastation. Built in 1871 was the first class of ocean going capital ship that did not carry sails and the first whose entire main armament was mounted on top of the hull rather than inside it

In 1885 he purchases his exit from the Royal Navy for the Sum of £12.00.

By 1891 he is married to Annie and has a daughter Grace and the family are living at 16 Manor Road Terrace, Dovercourt.

In 1896, he must have moved to Great Clacton as he joins the Clacton Fire Brigade. In 1901 he is living at 2 Anchor Villas, Old Road Great Clacton, and he has more 3 children.

In 1907 he is awarded a long service medal for 11 years with the Clacton Brigade.

In 1911 he has moved to 2 Warwick Villas Herbert Road, Clacton and his occupation is a House painter.

Very little further information is available on Waller except that he died in May 1940 at which time he was living at The Homestead 40 Coppins Road, Clacton on Sea.

Walter Fairlead

Walter was born in 1877 in London to John, a carpenter, and Carrie nee Gardener, and by 1881 the family consisted of his parents and 3 sisters Emily, Eve and Alice and are living at 4 Wellington Place, Old Town, Southend.

By 1891 he has three further siblings, Edith, Charles and Elsie. Walter is now an apprentice carpenter to his father.

In 1898 he Marries Annie Jane Martin in the Rockford district of Essex. and in 1901 he is living at "Benlark" in Great Clacton and his occupation is a plumber. He must have joined the Clacton Volunteer Fire Brigade shortly after he moved to Clacton just shortly after his marriage, as in April 1909 he is awarded a long service medal for 10 years service in the Fire Brigade by the Chairman of the Urban Council.

In 1911 Walter is living at 57 St Andrews Road and his occupation is a plumber and the firmly living at home consists of Walter Annie and children, Alice, Waller and Ivy whose age is 4 yrs He does not enlist in the Armed Services in World War 1 and it is not known when he left the Clacton Fire Brigade, but it is known that he died on the 26 August 1950 and his address is the same as it was in 1911, 57 St Andrew's Road Clacton.

William Wyatt

William Wyatt was born in 1868 in Wix, Essex to James Wyatt, an agricultural labourer, and Caroline nee King.

In 1881 William was living with his family in a cottage in Colchester Road, Wix and was working as a Farm Boy at the age of 12. He was the youngest of six, his siblings being Arthur, Maurice, Elizabeth, Caroline and Tryphena.

Life was not uneventful for William as in January 1895, he was summoned for being drunk and disorderly on December 22nd 1894, he pleaded guilty and expressed contrition. The Police Officer stated that the defendant became very disorderly jumped around the constable and said *"if you think I'm drunk you had better knock me sober"*. He was fined 5 shillings, the costs being remitted.

He married in July 1898 in Samford Suffolk to Emma Stiff and moved to Clacton

In 1901 he is living at 1 Belle Vue Cottage, St. Osyth Road, Clacton and has one child, Ethel Victoria aged 2 months and his occupation is a bricklayer.

By 1911 he is living in the same house and has another daughter Irene Emma, aged 4 yrs He did not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1, probably because of age, however he joined the Clacton Fire Brigade in 1916 at the age of 48 and in 1926 he is awarded his 10 year long service medal.

He died on the 4th September 1940 at the County Hospital Bedford, his home address being 62 St Osyth Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, with administration going to his widow Emma.

Albert Edward Fairclough

Albert was born in Clacton in 1887 to William Fairclough, a brick maker and his wife Clara nee Hempstead. He had two elder siblings William W. and Ethel and the family are living at Magdalene Green, Clacton, and by 1891 he had two further siblings, Thomas and William. By 1901 he has two further siblings, Charles and Elsie and the family have moved to 1 Elsie Villas, Old Road, Clacton. His father is still a brick manufacturer and Albert has become a Telephone Messenger at the age of 13.

In 1904 he has become a member of the Clacton Volunteer Fire Brigade, and 4 years later he marries Jennie Eliza Fisher in the Tendring District of Essex and he and his wife move to 3, Fairfield Villas, Fairfield Road, Clacton on Sea, and his occupation is a brick carman.

On 21st July 1909 he is summoned for conveying nine persons in a wagonette licensed to carry only seven. The Defendant said he only took up seven, the others must have jumped up behind. He was found guilty and fined 2s 6d.

By 1911 he has two children Lilian and Gordon, and between 1914 and 1918 he his living at @ Levington Terrace, St Osyth Road, Great Clacton.

In June 1937 Albert dies at the age of 50. At the time of his death he is living in Coopers Lane, Clacton and leaves a widow, 4 daughter and a son. He was well known and respected and a member of the Comrades and Conservative Clubs.

Coggeshall

Robert Henry Southgate

Robert was born in 1867 in Ipswich. Suffolk to Frederick Southgate, a blacksmith and Sarah. At the time of his birth he had two elder siblings, Sarah aged 4 and Frederick aged 2. By 1871 he has a younger sister Alice M. A. aged 1 and the family are living in Stoke Station Road, St Mary Stoke, Ipswich.

By 1881, the family have moved to Ranelagh Road Cottages and Robert is a Boiler Makers Assistant. The family has grown and he has a further six siblings Eliza, William, Alfred, Walter, Emily and Albert.

In 1888 Robert marries Annie Turner in Ipswich and by 1901 he has two children. George R aged 12 and Florence A aged 11. His occupation is a Machine Riveter and the family are living at Ranelagh Road Ipswich

By 1902 he and his family have moved to Coggeshall and he has joined the Fire Brigade, as in 1909 he and his son put out a fire, as this report in the Chelmsford chronicle of 15 January 1909 illustrates.

"A fire occurred at the house of Mr Mynot Humphrey a hairdresser of Market Hill, due it was said to a quantity of linen on the fireguard igniting. Robert Southgate, a fireman and his son arrived promptly on the scene extinguished the flames"

He has also changed his occupation and is now a Fishmonger.

In 1911 he is living at Market Hill, Coggeshall with his wife Annie and his daughter Florence, as his son George was married in the last quarter of 1909 to Lilly Mary Hull in the Braintree registration district.

Robert's occupation is a fishmonger and he appears in the 1902, 1906, 1909, 1912 editions of Kelly's Directory with the address of his business being in Stoneham Street, Coggeshall.

It is not known how long he spent in the Fire Brigade as the records for Coggeshall Fire Brigade have been lost, however it is known that he died on the 13th October 1949 whilst living at the High street, Kelvedon with probate going to his son George Robert Southgate who is now a retired Police Officer.



Coggeshall Fire Brigade circa 1900

Edgar Tracey Pennick

Edgar was born on 20th February 1863 at Portsea Island, Hampshire. His father was Henry Pennick, a mariner and his mother was Eliza nee Adderson. His father, Henry, dies between 1871 and 1874 whilst at sea. In 1871 he is living with his mother, Eliza who is a laundress and two siblings, Albert, aged 6 and Alice aged 2 in Spring Road, Brightlingsea.

In 1881 at the age of 18 he is living at Spring Road, Brightlingsea Essex with his sister Alice and he is shown as head of the household. His occupation at this time is a Blacksmith.

Five years later in 1886 he marries Louisa Saunders in the Braintree registration district of Essex and has a daughter Eva Maud. In 1895 he takes over the license of the Six Bells Beerhouse in Boreham and he maintains his occupation as a blacksmith and also a publican. In 1900 his wife Louisa dies and by 1901 he and his daughter are living at the Six Bells P.H. and in 1902 he is fined 10s with 7s d costs for keeping a dog without a licence.

Later in 1902 he marries his sister-in-law, Sarah Saunders, in London City and by 1911 he has moved to be publican of the Yorkshire Grey P.H at Stoneham Street, Coggeshall. By this time he has three children by Sarah, these being Frank, Mary and Ada. and his daughter Eva is still living with the family at the age of 24, Unfortunately however in 1913 Eva dies of Rheumatic Fever.

In 1914 he is still publican of The Yorkshire Grey P.H when he is assaulted by a James Richardson who was summoned for being Drunk and Disorderly and for assaulting Edgar by giving him a severe blow over his left eye. Richardson was fined £1 11s for the Drunk and Disorderly offence and £1 1s 6d for the assault with the alternative of 14 days in custody for each offence.

He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War One in 1914 but it is known that he has joined the Coggeshall Volunteer Fire Brigade as in 1916, records show that he was a member of that brigade, when he is given 5s expenses for attending at a fire at Grange Farm, Little Coggeshall on June 16th 1916.

It is not known when he left the Brigade but in the pre war register of 1939 he is shown as living at Berkeley Cottage, Tilkey, Coggeshall with Sarah, Eliza and Mary, and his occupation is shown as a retired Blacksmith.

His wife Sarah dies in December 1944 but Edgar survives the World War 2 and dies on the 8th June 1947 at the Prested Hall Nursing Home Feering, Essex. His home address at the time of his death was Berkeley Cottage. Probate was granted to Mary G Pennick, his daughter.

Herbert Harry Seward

Herbert was born in 1877 in West Ashford, Kent, to Alfred J. Seward, a Brewer, and his mother Sarah. The family were living at 11 Dover Place, Ashford. and by 1881 Herbert had. five elder siblings and two younger ones and there was a domestic servant Annie Allard 16 yrs. Ten years later, he is a pawnbroker's assistant working for George Thomas Hindmarsh at 25 Moulsham Street Chelmsford..mm



Herbert Harry Seward

By 1897 he has become a Corporal in the Essex Volunteers when he takes part in a Bayonet exercise and physical drill under Colour Sergeant Baker. Being an athletic person, later in this year he was elected to the committee of The Gymnastic Club in Chelmsford.

By 1903 he has become engineer of the Coggeshall Fire Brigade. Whilst a member of the Fire Brigade the engineer was not supposed to undertake any Fire fighting but was only responsible for the engine. He does not always obey this regulation as will be seen later.

In 1907 he became the Secretary of the Coggeshall Amateur String Band. In 1908 he is at a function at Wigmoore's Refreshment Room in Coggeshall, when one of a number of gentlemen who were doing at the time accidentally threw a lighted match on the floor, which ignited long laced curtains hanging on the window. Herbert quickly extinguished the flames, which, but for his prompt action a serious conflagration might have occurred as the premises were chiefly built of wood and plaster.

1911 was to prove an eventful year to Herbert, Firstly he was running his own Cycling business in East Street, Coggeshall and later in the year he married Emily. Kate. Later in this year he and his wife attend the cottage of his Aunt, Kate Smith, a tailoress in the employ of Hallingham Bros and who was living in Back Lane, Coggeshall. There was no reply and the Police were called. They forced an entrance to the premises through a window, Upstairs the Police Sergeant found the body of Kate Smith suspended by a linen line hanging from a nail. The subsequent verdict found she had committed suicide while temporary insane.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist but remains a member of the Coggeshall Fire Bngade. In 1916 he receives 5s expenses for attending a fire at Grange Farm, Little Coggeshall on 2nd June. that year.

Herbert Harry Seward dies on 22 August 1918 with probate going to Emily Kate Seward.

Colchester

William W. Rampling

Born in Hadleigh Suffolk in 1868 to William Rampling, a tailor, and Marry Ann Rampling and is living in 1871 in .Great Yarmouth.

On the 2nd April 1893, he was married to Ann Sarah *nee Myland* and the 1911 census shows that he has four sons, Walter C.17 yrs, William A, 16 yrs Frederick James who was born on the 14th July 1903 and Stanley George who was born on the 1st October 1905 and one daughter, Lilly Beatrice who was born on the 2nd April 1909.

In 1890 he joins the 2nd Essex Battalion and is confirmed as a Private and is discharged on the 8th October 1897 on termination of first period of limited engagement, at which time he must have joined the Colchester Fire Brigade as he is shown in a photograph of the Colchester Fire Brigade dated 1897, held at the Essex Fire Museum.

However on the 7th March 1900 he is recalled to army service and is posted to the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment. On 14th August 1902 he is discharged having completed his period of engagement. After the outbreak of World War 1 in 1915 he is asked if he would re enlist in the army for Home Duty only and He is attested on the 12th July 1915 at Colchester, when his descriptive report states that he is 5ft 31/2 inches with chest girth of 38 inches and a Range of Expansion of 2 inches.

He is posted to 3rd Battalion Essex Regiment on 16th July 1915 and transferred to Suffolk regiment on 12th May 1916 and then transferred to the Army Reserve on the 12th August 1916. On 17th January 1919 he is discharged as "surplus to requirements", having served with the colours for a total of 16 years 310 days.

In 1928 he is living at 'Roselea' Ipswich Road Colchester, and on 1st October 1928 writes to the army record office, as he will shortly be entitled to a pension on reaching 65 years of age and wants to trace his record papers which were mislaid or lost on his joining the 11th Essex Regiment at Shoreham in October 1914 and needs them to apply for a pension.

On 3rd September 1932, The Royal Chelsea Hospital request a copy of William's attestation, which may indicate that he has applied to become a pensioner at the hospital.

David Cardy

Born to John and Eliza Cardy in 1866 son of a Second marriage by John to Eliza, John having become a widower between 1851 and 1861, when his first wife, Miriah has died.

In 1896 David became a Fireman with the Colchester Brigade as in 1906 he receives his 10 year service medal and has by this time become a Conductor of the Brigade.

The 1911 census shows that he is married to Alice, and has four sons: Charles aged 20 yrs, David 15 yrs, *(born in 1893, David killed in action on 10th April 1918, having become a Private in 10th Essex Regiment with a regimental number 19257. Died France and Flanders, buried Picquingny British cemetery row g 13)* George 10 yrs, Robert 13 yrs.

He is living at 3, East Stockwell Street, Colchester and his occupation is a Road Labourer. On 26th September 1914, at the age of 50, David joins the The Essex Regiment Local Guard, which is embodied into the 6th Battalion Essex Regiment, as a private. His regimental number being 2544, and serves at home until 11.1.15.

On joining he is described as being 50 years of age, 5ft 8 1/2 inches weighing 148 lbs with fair complexion, grey eyes and brown hair, and whilst he has an operation for a stone in the kidney, he is considered fit for service in the Territorial Force.

On the 13th December it is stated that he is unfit for further military service due to his deafness, attacks of giddiness due to diseased condition of his blood vessels and the effects of his old operation on his kidney.

On the 15th December 1914, David whilst on sentry duty is found lying in a faint, as a result of which in is placed in to hospital from which he absents himself without leave and proceeded home to Colchester.

On the 24th December he reports to the guard unit at Colchester and was placed under open arrest pending a decision as to his future, and on the 11th January 1915 he is medically discharged from the army.

Frank Naylor

Frank Naylor was born on the 16th April 1869 to Alfred George Naylor and Jane Emmaline Naylor nee Brown who was 19 years Alfred's senior and had 6 brothers and sisters, namely Alfred G aged 15 years, Thomas aged 12 years, Walter aged 11, Emmaline aged 9 yrs, Alice aged 7 years and Jane Emil aged 4.

In 1891 he married Agnes Barton and had 4 children, Jessie, Frank Agnes and Charles, however in 1902 Agnes died, and in 1910 he marries the widow of another fireman, Matilda and is living at 15 West Stockwell Street, Colchester.

Shortly after marrying Agnes he joins the Colchester Fire Brigade and can be seen on a photograph of the Colchester Fire Brigade in 1897 which is held at the Essex Fire Museum. In the 1911 census his occupation is shown as a Street Orderly.

He served in the brigade throughout the war and rose to the rank of Fire Lieutenant in the Brigade.

After the war he continued with the brigade and in 1923 whilst dealing with a fire at the premises of Messrs Paull and Co. motor cycle agents and Messrs WJ Rolfe and Sons auctioneers and estate agents of 113 High Street, Colchester, at the age of 53, and with 30 years service, he was killed as a result of a fractured skull caused whilst engaged in demolition work after the fire had been extinguished and had stepped onto a piece of timber which had been built into the chimney and acted as a lever and the chimney toppled down, which knocked him off the roof causing him to fall between 25 and 30 feet and was covered with the debris from the chimney, causing the



Naylor's Funeral Essex Fire Museum

fractured skull and internal injuries. He died on the way to Hospital.

He left a wife and children whom the council indicated would be looked after by them. His Funeral took place on the Tuesday 7th August 1923, and the coffin was borne on the Corporation motor fire engine, and laid on the coffin was his Fireman's Helmet, Belt and Hatchet. There were also numerous floral tributes attached to the engine. The procession was led by a mounted policeman, PC Plumber, and included many colleagues from other Brigades including

the Garrison Fire Brigade, former members of the Brigade, Councillors and the Police. The funeral service was conducted by Reverend D.W. Langridge Congregational Minister.

In 1999 his family members, the firefighters of Colchester and the council erected a gravestone to his memory.



the
local

Arthur Middleton Jarmin

Arthur was born in 1864 in Colchester to Thomas Middleton Jarmin who was general shop keeper, and Emma nee Watson, who were married in 1862. Arthur was the first born, but by 1871 he had three younger siblings, Emma Alice, Agnes Matilda and Thomas Edward. At this time the family are living in Maldon Road, Colchester. Ten years later in 1881, His fathers occupation is shown as a Chelsea Pensioner, and Arthur is shown as a Greengrocer. Arthur's younger brother, Thomas died in 1877 at the age of 6yrs.

In 1883 Arthur marries Emily Sarah A Lightly in Colchester and by 1891 Arthur is a Greengrocer and Storekeeper, living at 21 Rawstone Road, Colchester. He and Emily have three children, Alice E, 6 yrs Arthur F.M. 4yrs and Mable E.A. 3 yrs.

It is not known when Arthur joins the Colchester Corporation Fire Brigade, however in 1896 he is Lieutenant of the Brigade. In 1897 he attends a serious fire in charge of the Corporation Brigade at the premises of G.C. Wortley a fruit ever of Long Wyre Street, Colchester. Before the flames could be extinguished Mr Worley's place was entirely gutted and the Butchery Stores of the Colchester and East Essex Co-operative Society which were next door, were damaged. The brigade prevented the flames from spreading any further, and prevented a very great conflagration. The cause of the fire was unknown. In 1905 Arthur give evidence at a Coroner's court held to determine the cause of death of a fireman named Pullen. Arthur gives evidence to the court, Fireman Pullen had been in the Brigade for nine months and bore an excellent character. He was a good living man and a good workman. Arthur stated that he did not think that the deceased was put to any exertion at the time of the fire. Other evidence was received and the doctor stated that the cause of death was hear failure, which was the verdict recorded by the Court.

In 1905 Arthur leaves the Brigade and starts another active career in local politics, becoming Mayor of Colchester in 1918.

On the 27th January 1927, Arthur dies at the age of 63 yrs whilst living at 15 East Hill, Colchester with effects of £9330 10s 5d.

John Cocker

John was born in Colchester in 1870 to Thomas Cocker, a road labourer, and Mary Ann Cocker nee Youngs. The family are living in Osbourne Street, Colchester and John has two elder brothers, Thomas and William, and by 1871 he has a younger sister, Mary Ann who is three months of age.

By 1881 John has become a Messenger in the boot trade. He has 3 further siblings, James, Emily and George. His father has now become a carman and the family have moved to 2 Cromwell Road, Colchester. Ten years later in 1891 John is still living with his parents. His father has now declared his occupation as a scavenger and John has become a boot finisher. The family are still living in Cromwell Road. He has a further two brothers, Frederick Charles and Harry.

In 1892 John marries Jane Goodchild in Colchester, and in 1896 John joins the Colchester Corporation Fire Brigade and by 1897 has become a conductor in that Brigade.

In 1901 he is living with his wife Jane at 22 Osbourne Road, Colchester. He has four children, John, Thomas, Janney and Florence and his occupation is a Foreman of a road construction team.

In 1905, John attends as a Conductor in charge of the Brigade when they were turned out to a fire in a Workshop in Military Road, Colchester, and which was occupied by Mr Frederick Boice, a builder. Despite being quickly on the scene, and because of the contents of the Workshop, the building was completely destroyed .

The following year, John has become Lieutenant with the Colchester Corporation Brigade and he receives a 10 year long service medal presented by the Mayor Mr H. Goodyear.

In 1907 John attends with the Brigade attend a fire at 12 East Stockwell Street, Colchester and with difficulty, because of the age of the house, they extinguish the fire.

In 1911 John is still living at 22 Osbourne Street, Colchester and is still a Road Foreman employed by Colchester Corporation. He has three further children Mary Mabel, Frederick Charles and Phyllis Ruby. Examination of the census forms reveals that he has had nine children, two of whom have died. He also has a boarder John Braid, who is a Chemist's assistant.

In 1912 he attends a fire with the Brigade at Borough Fish Stores, in Long Wyre Street when he is overcome by smoke and had to be carried out of the fire scene. He was very nearly suffocated but after resting in the street, he came round.

By 1920 he has become Captain of the Colchester Fire Brigade, and in 1923 he gives evidence at the Coroner's court in relation to the death of Lieutenant Naylor, who was killed when a chimney stack collapsed whilst at a Fire. He stated that Naylor and some other firemen had gone to the roof to remove some dangerous timbers and he then saw the chimney coming down and heard a warning shout.. However Naylor fell from a height of 25 to 30 feet and was covered with the debris of the chimney. When a juror said that whilst he knew Naylor was a brave man, he thought he was too old to go on to the roof, John replied that "he was an active man who did not want any ordering and we never send anybody when we dare not go there ourselves"

John remains Captain of the Colchester Brigade until 1934 when he retires after 38 years duty, and he dies 9 years later in 1943 in Colchester.

Dunmow

Henry Hilner Halls

Born 1887, Son of Henry Hiner Halls (bricklayer) and Sarah Ann nee Ames. After leaving school he becomes a bricklayer like his father. Became a fireman with Dunmow Brigade between 1905

and 1907 when he is mentioned in the Essex Newman as coming 3rd in the 2 man engine drill with Fireman Stock and 3rd in the three man turnout with firemen Bush and Cock. In 1912 his father Henry dies. By 1913 he has become a proficient fireman and in the Dunmow Fire Brigade Competitions of that year, he wins the two man drill with Fireman Bird and the three man turnout with Sub Captain Pearmain and Fireman Hubbard.

At the outbreak of war joins the 1/5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment and his regimental number being 250005 On the 4th August 1914 The 1/4th Battalion is stationed at Brentwood and the 1/5th Battalion is stationed at Chelmsford both as part of the Essex Brigade of the East Anglian Division and then moved to Norwich.

In April 1915 they moved to Colchester and the formation became the 161st Brigade of the 54th Division and then moved to St Albans.

On the 21st July 1915 the battalion embarked for the Mediterranean from Devonport via Lemnos, landing on the 12th August at Sulva Bay and engaged in various actions against the Turkish Army.

On the 4th December 1915 they were evacuated from Gallipoli to Mudros due to severe casualties from combat, disease and harsh weather, and on the 17th December were deployed to Alexandria.

In 1916 the battalion was involved with Suez Canal Defence and later returned to front line duty. By the time that the Battalion becomes involved in the First Battle of Gaza Henry has become a Sergeant in B Company of the 5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment.

The First Battle of Gaza started on the 26th March 1917 and saw the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (of which the 5th Battalion was a part) suffer defeat at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in their attempt to invade Palestine. It is during this Battle that Henry is reported missing and later confirmation is received that he was Killed in Action. He was buried in Israel and is mentioned on the Jerusalem Memorial. Henry posthumously received the Victory medal and the British War Medal.

At the time of death his mother Sarah Anne is living at 48 North Street, Great Dunmow.

George Parnell Kemp

George Parnell Kemp was born on 20th October 1887 in Tottenham, Middlesex. His father was James Nelson Kemp, who was the publican of the Railway Tavern, Tottenham, Middlesex and his mother was Alice nee Parnall. He was christened on the 24th April 1889. By the 1891 census he

family has moved to the White Horse Public House, which was situated in the High Street, Great Dunmow. Whilst at this Public House, the family used to take orders from the Royal Oak public house and they also delivered goods to 'Easton Lodge', when King Edward VII was staying there with the Countess of Warwick (kempfamilyhistory.com)

In the census of 1901 Gordon has 5 siblings, Alice 18 years, Harold J 15 years, Dorothy 10 years, Isabel 7 years and Frederick 3 years. Three other children have been born alive but have since died.



In 1905, the family moves to the Royal Oak P.H. from the White Horse and whilst here his father James was an Overseer of the Poor, on the local council and involved in other activities in the locality. It is interesting to note that the Royal Oak kept a copy of Encyclopaedia Britannica for the locals to come in and read. (pubhistory.com)

About this time, Gordon's brother Harold, emigrates to South Africa and becomes a member of the of the British South African Police.

In 1910, Gordon is (according to parish records) attending the Fire Pump in Great Dunmow.

At the outbreak of war Gordon joins the Royal Garrison Artillery, his enlistment place being Great Yarmouth, his regimental number being 60984, and serves in France and Flanders. On Wednesday 26th September 1917, he is killed in action whilst serving with the 186th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, and is buried in Voormezele Enclosures No.1 and No.2, Leper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Unfortunately this is not the only tragedy to affect the Kemp Family as Gordon's brother, who was in South Africa at the outbreak of war and who had joined the Northern Rhodesian Force, was killed in action in May 1916.

The Kemps by this time are living in Great Yarmouth running another public house there.

Joseph Byatt

Born in Henham, Essex living at Bank House, Stortford Road, High Street, Dunmow, married to Annie Ellen and in the 1911 census, the family consisted of Joseph Donovan aged 18 yrs, Phillip aged 17 yrs, Emma Dorothy Mona Nellie, aged 14 yrs, Jack Woodham Neville, aged 13 yrs. Occupation Baker and confectioner.

A man of a sporting disposition from his youth, he can be found in 1900 giving lessons to 30/40 young people in gymnastics and is responsible for a display on the Rings, Parallel bars and in boxing

In 1904 he attends the Diamond Jubilee of the Loyal Hope Lodge of Oddfellows.

With regard to his Fire Brigade work, in the annual Dunmow Fire Brigade Competition of 1905 he comes second in the two man drill with J Brazier and 1st in three man drill with C. Harrington and G. Cook.

He was a man who was interested in all types of sport and recreational games, as he was also involved in the Dunmow Football Team of 1906 and also displaying an interest for Chess in that he took part in a chess match at the Conservative Club in Dunmow between teams of 4 from Takely and Dunmow

In August 1913 he was successful in winning for the second year in succession the silver medal for the highest aggregate score in the one man drills.

Although he does not appear to have enlisted in the armed services during the War, there is evidence that he was involved in Rifle Shooting as In 1906 and 1907, he is involved in the Dunmow rifle club and in 1906 is included in the team for the National Service League Cup, and was still involved in 1913. In 1916 he is involved in a competition between the Dunmow Rifle Club and the Signal School, Eastern Command, in which he scores 97 and which the Dunmow rifle club win overall. In 1920 he is elected as the Dunmow Division representative on the provisional executive council of the Essex Council (miniature) rifle association.

A man of many talents, In 1922, he is member of the winning team in a bowls match played between Dunmow and Sawbridgeworth in which Dunmow win 78 to 31 and in 1923 he is a painting judge in the 35th horticultural show of the Easton Lodge Cottage Gardening Society.

In 1926, when he has become Captain of Dunmow Fire Brigade he writes a an open letter published in the Chelmsford Chronicle on Friday 26th August 1926 asking for £1,500 for a new fire fighting machine as their present antiquated engine is still drawn by horses, and there have been several occasions when called upon that the brigade has been unable to attend. As money has not been forthcoming from the council, the brigade is asking for voluntary contributions to purchase a motor propelled engine.

He dies in February 1934 at which time he is still the Captain of the Dunmow Fire Brigade. He had been ill for several months and underwent an operation in Bishops Stortford Hospital in May 1934. He made a partial recovery and on returning to Dunmow resumed his duties including those of the Captain of the Fire Brigade, but was taken ill again and again entered hospital for a second time. He returned to Dunmow before Christmas and had been confined to bed at home until his death. He died at the Bakery, High Street, Dunmow.

Arthur Charles Crow

Arthur Charles Crow was born in 1874 in Eye, Suffolk to Charles Crow and Susannah nee Ellis. His Home address in 1911 is Barley Hall, Parsonage Down, Dunmow and his occupation is a gardener. He married Emma Cock on the 9th September 1900 and had one son, Charles Arthur Crow.

On the out break of war he does not enlist, probably because at this time he is over the age limit required, However by 1918 this age limit has been changed and he is now eligible. At the age of 48 years 5 months, on the 4th June 1918 he joins the Royal Army Medical Corps, his regimental number being 129800. When enlisting he is described as 5ft 5 3/4inches and weighed 131 lbs. He had grey hair, a sallow complexion and a chest measurement of 36 1/2 inches when expanded. His physical development is described as fair and he has 6/6 vision in both eyes. He has a scar on his left knee and is suffering from varicose veins and has defective teeth. Because he joined after the age of 40 there is note on his file that he should not be placed in any medical category higher than B(i) at any time of his service.

On 1st July 1918 he is admitted to hospital for 7 days, until the 8th July and on the 2nd of August his medical category his reduced from B(i) to B(iii). On the 17th September 1918 he is transferred to the 394 Agricultural Company of the Labour Corps with the regimental number 642015.

When the Labour Corps was formed in mid 1917 it was decided that the men assigned to it from other regiments, often because of their reduced medical category, should change their regimental badges to that of the General Service Corps. Many of the men disliked having to wear this badge and preferred to retain their regimental identity. Towards the end of 1918 the Labour Corps was granted their own badge - the piled pick, rifle and shovel emblem that was to become the badge of the Pioneer Corps (later Royal Pioneer Corps). Once it had been created, the Labour Corps was split into various Labour groups, each consisting of a headquarters and several Labour companies. In addition there were Area Employment Companies, Area Employment (Artisan) Companies, Divisional Employment Companies, and Agricultural Companies.

Arthur is finally discharged from the colours on 5th February 1919 and returns to Dunmow rejoining the Fire Brigade in Dunmow.

Arthur dies in 1947 in Dunmow.

Arthur Metson

In 1891 in Dunmow, Arthur was born to Henry, a coal yard labourer and Mary Ann nee Rawlinson. He was the youngest of 4 Children, his elder siblings being Frank, Claire and William. In 1911 census, Arthur is 20 years of age, living with his parents and is still single. His occupation is a harness maker.

On the 10th December 1915 enlists into the Royal Field Artillery. At this time conscription had still not come into force and so Arthur was a volunteer. He was placed on to the Reserve List on the

12th December 1915 and his record shows that he had recently got married on the 12th April 1915 to Elizabeth Sams at Dunmow. On 9th August 1916 he has a son Ernest Cyril. His enlistment medical shows that he was 5ft 5 1/2 inches in height with a chest girth of 36 inches. He has 6/6 vision in both eyes, is of good physical development and weighed 112 lbs. His teeth require attention, but in spite of this he is placed into medical category A(i).

On the 26th October 1916 he is mobilised and on the 31st October becomes a driver in the Royal Field Artillery. On the 20th November 1916 he is posted as a driver in the 3rd Reserve Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. On 1st March 1917 he is posted to the B.E.F. in France. He is in France for less than 5 months when he succumbs to Diarrhoea and is admitted to a Field Hospital where he remains for 7 days returning to duty on the 23rd August 1917. However on the 15th September the same year he is taken by the 50th Field Ambulance to the Field Hospital suffering from the same ailment and is kept in hospital until the 24th September 1917 when he is discharged back to his unit.

On the 9th February he is granted leave in the UK together with his ration allowance until the 23rd of February. On the 8th March 1919 he was posted to 123rd Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery and on the 26th March of the same month he is again posted to the 86th Army Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery.

On the 20th May that year he became a saddler assuming those duties on that day. On the 18th August 1919 he is granted leave via Calais. In September 1919 he is in Harrogate when he goes absent from camp for 22 hours until he was detained by the police at Harrogate Railway Station being in contravention of Divisional Standing Orders No 479 and is found to be in possession of an irregular pass and had been making use of it. For this he received punishment on the 18th September 1919, of 28 days imprisonment by his Commanding Officer.

On the 20th October Arthur is sent to the dispersal area at Crystal Palace to await demobilisation, which occurs on the following day the 21st October 1919.

After demobilisation he returns to the Fire Brigade in Dunmow and remains in the service there until 1940. He remains in the area and dies in the Uttlesford District of Essex in 1976 at the age of 85yrs.

Joseph Cock

Joseph Cock was born in 1873 to Charles Cock, a Brickmaker, and Phoebe Cock. He had 3 brothers, George, William and Alfred and 2 sisters, Martha and Rhoda. After leaving school he became a labourer and in 1909, he is a member of the Dunmow Fire Brigade. He was also a member of the 2nd volunteer battalion of the Essex Regiment in which he spent 4 years before leaving.

In the October following the outbreak of World War 1 and although he was 41 years and 10 months, he enlisted into the 1/5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, his regimental number being

2172. On enlistment he was 5ft 4 1/2 inches in height and weighed 131lbs with a chest girth measurement of 36 inches when expanded. According to his medical record, he was of a red complexion and had blue eyes with dark red hair. It was also noted that the little toe on his left foot is displaced over the next toe, but causes no pain or trouble.

In August 1914. the 1/5th Essex Battalion were stationed at Chelmsford as part of the Essex Brigade of the East Anglian Division and then moved to Norwich. In April 1915 Moved to Colchester and the formation became the 161st Brigade of the 54th Division and then moved to At Albans. On the 21 July 1915 the battalion embarked for the Mediterranean from Devonport via Lemnos.

On the 12 August 1915 they Landed at Suvla Bay and engaged in various actions against the Turkish Army.

However on the 4th December 1915 they were evacuated from Gallipoli to Mudros due to severe casualties from combat, disease and harsh weather.

On the 21st November before his battalion could be posted to Alexandria on the 17th December 1915, Joseph was transferred back to England and was admitted to the Beaufort Hospital at in Bristol. On the 14th October 1916 he was transferred to the 156th Provisional Company of the Royal Defence Corps.

The Royal Defence Corps was a corps of the British Army formed by converting the (Home Service) Garrison battalions of line infantry regiments. Garrison battalions were composed of soldiers either too old or medically unfit for active front-line service; the Home Service status indicated they were unable to be transferred overseas. His regimental number was 41046. Joseph was demobilised on the 23rd April 1919.

He returns to Dunmow, but it is not known if he rejoins the Fire Brigade.

George Cock

Born in 1855 to Charles Cock (a Brickmaker) and Pheobe Cock. He had three brothers, Joseph,(also mentioned in this work on Fireman), William and Alfred.

He married Marta Chopping in 1876 and in 1881 he is living in the High Street Stacey's yard, his occupation being a general labourer. In 1911 he is living at the The Police Station Yard,Gt Dunmow and his occupation is a general labourer. It is also noticeable from the census that he and Phoebe have had 12 children, 7 of whom have died.

He did not enlist in the War, but all of his sons did, one of whom George was killed in 1914 at the front.

George died in 1934 and his epitaph in the Chelmsford Chronicle stated that he had been a member of the Dunmow Fire Brigade, for many years and also been a member of the Dunmow Branch of the British Legion. He had been married for 58 years and his wife survived him.

The funeral was held at the Parish Church in Dunmow and the coffin was escorted by the Dunmow Fire Brigade and there was a guard of honour at the church provided by the British Legion.

William James Ayton

Born in Dunmow in 1882 to Osbourne Ayton (a carpenter) and Louisa. He was the second eldest of 8, his siblings being in order of age, John, Albert, May Anthony, Kate, Herbert and Lilly. In 1901 he was living in Chelmsford Road Great Dunmow, and his occupation was a joiner.

In 1908 he married Florence Isabella Brown who was born in St Pancras London and in 1910 had one daughter Margaret. About this time he joined the Fire brigade at Dunmow as he was a Fireman at Dunmow in 1909 when he took part in the annual fire brigade competitions. He came 1st with Engineer Butcher and Fireman Bush in the three man drill, 3rd in the three man turnout with Fireman Bush and Fireman Stock and 2nd in the Hose Truck Drill. Afterwards there was a meat tea at the White House Inn High Street, Dunmow of which he is the Publican. He was publican of the White horse between 1910 and 1912.

In 1911 he was elected to the committee of the Dunmow Rifle Club. In October 1911 William comes second in the deliberate firing class B at the annual prize shooting of the Dunmow Firing Club. William was an athletic type of person, and is mentioned on several occasions in the local papers as being involved with the Dunmow Football Club.

It is not known if William James enlisted in World War 1, for the only reference that can be found is of a William James Ayton in the WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls which shows a John William Ayton as a member of the Army Service Corps (later the RASC) with a regimental number of M2/0045534, who was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. However this cannot be confirmed as there is no address or date of birth for this person. There is no other reference to this person, possibly because the records were destroyed in WW2.

However it is known that William survived the war as in 1922 he is a referee in a match between Thaxted and Dunmow when Thaxted challenge one of his decisions with he Stansted League who order the match to be replayed. However Dunmow appeal this decision and the Appeals Board allow this appeal.

Charles Bush

Born in 1879 in Great Dunmow to Henry (an agricultural worker) and Eliza nee Savill, he had two sisters Emily and Maud. In 1901 he is living with his parents at 11 Broadway, Great Dunmow and his occupation is a Stockman on a cattle farm.

In 1911 he is still single and living with his parents at Broadway, Great Dunmow, however by 1907 he has joined the Dunmow Fire Brigade, as in the competitions held that year, he comes 1st in the

two man engine drill with Engineer Butcher, 2nd in the 3 man drill with engineer Butcher and Fireman Cock and 2nd in the Three man turnout with Engineer Butcher and Fireman Halls. He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1 and In 1915 he marries Florence Josephine Letch at Dunmow.

In 1917 he is the complainant in a criminal case in which a male named Henry Williams 18 years a labourer of Peckham Rye was charged with stealing an overcoat and two jackets from him. Williams was subsequently sentenced to 3 years at a Borstal Institution.

Charles remained in Dunmow and he dies there in 1955.

Frank Thomas Stock

In 1909 Frank Thomas Stock was born in 1870 to Thomas (a Blacksmith) and Sarah Stock nee Perry, in Dunmow and was baptised on 13 March 1870.

In 1891 he is living at Staceys Yard, Dunmow, however in 1876, at the age of 40 his mother Sarah had died and in 1891 his father has a housekeeper to look after the family.



Frank Thomas Stock

On 20th December 1891, Frank marries Elizabeth Bull at the Holy Trinity Church, Tottenham and they move back to Dunmow, where he is working as a Blacksmith. He and Elizabeth will eventually have 5 children, Edwin Frank, Frederick William, Henry Thomas, Bertie Colin and Frances Mary Ann.

By 1905 he has become a member of the Dunmow Fire Brigade, as in that year he participated in the Brigade competitions and came third in the 3 man drill with Firemen Butcher and Byatt. In 1907 he again participates in the Brigade competitions and comes 3rd with Fireman Halls in the 2 man engine drill, 3rd in the three man drill with Sub Captain Pearmain and Fireman Byatt, and afterwards attended the annual tea at the White Horse Hotel.

He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1, but it is believed that he remains with the Brigade for the duration of the War.

In October 1920 ,at the age of 50, whilst still living at Staceys Yard, High Street, Dunmow he dies leaving his effects of £162.11s 1d to his widow Elizabeth

William Hubbard

William was born in 1871 in Bradwell, Essex to William Hubbard a Blacksmith and Emma nee Potter He was the first child of the family and was eventually to have 4 siblings, Elizabeth, Frederick, Victor and Edmund.

In 1897 he married Alice King in Dunmow and in 1901 he is living in Stortford Road, Great Dunmow and his occupation is a Blacksmith. He has two children, Alice and Victor. By 1911 he is still living in Stortford Road, Great Dunmow and his occupation is shown as a Blacksmith Journeyman and he has a further daughter Eva.

In 1913 he was a member of the Dunmow Fire Brigade when he came first with Sub Captain Pearmain and Fireman Halls in the three man turn out.

He does not appear to have enlisted in World War I and research has shown that there is nothing more mentioned of him in relation to the Fire Brigade in Dunmow.

On Monday 19th December 1927 William is involved in an accident which eventually leads to his death.

Whilst walking in Dunmow Street on ice covered roads he had a nasty fall and severely bumped the back of his head. He later saw his daughter Alice who felt the back of his head and found a hump about the size of an egg. He also stated that he felt very giddy. Apart from the bump on his head, he appeared to be in his usual health but was very quiet. He went out from the house to make his way to the Boar's Head P.H. but failed to arrive. A search was made and his body was found at the railway level crossing at the top of New Street, with the top of his head cut off. The Police attended and concluded that William had been struck by the "Down" train. At the Coroner's Inquest, the Coroner decided that the case was one of suicide during temporary insanity. The deceased had suffered a severe blow on the head and the concussion might have caused him to be in a state of mental deficiency.

Sympathy with the relatives was expressed by the coroner, and representatives of the Railway Company and the Police.

East Ham

Robert Patten

In April 1915, The East Ham Brigade were returning from a serious fire at the Albert Dock in a large building known as Central Buffet. As the engine was going along High Street South, when the steering gear failed. As a result the engine ran into an oncoming tramcar and before the driver could stop, the engine mounted the pavement, knocked down some railings and plunged into a field. There were 5 men on the engine, a superintendent and four firemen, one of who was identified by a newspaper as Robert Patten, and who were all thrown to the ground, the fireman identified as Patten fell on the back of his head and was killed.

It is believed that the newspaper report that identified Robert Patten was wrong and that the deceased's correct name was James Robert Patten, who in the 1911 census, was a Brigade fireman with the District Council in Walthamstow.

James Robert Patton was born in 1884 in Hyde Road, Hoxton, London and was married to Ellen in 1900 and they had a daughter Ellen who was 6 months old. At this time they were living at 9 Truro Street, High Street, Walthamstow.

The inquest into his death was held by Dr Collins on Friday 9th April 1915. The driver of the fire engine was Robert James Holt and the Coroner's jury found that the deceased Patten's death was accidental and caused by an error of judgement on Holt's part, thinking that he had room to pass a tramcar and cutting it too fine. The jury thought that the steering gear was broken as a result of the impact of the two vehicles.

The Coroner said he could not accept the verdict as it had not been put to any of the witnesses if the the driver was to blame . The jury was passing a vote of censure on a man for something which did not appear in evidence, it was not reasonable and it was not English. It was agreed to call expert evidence and Mr Edmonds, engineer who said the fracture could not have occurred without a considerable blow at one time or another, and it was possible that such an impact with the tram would have caused the fracture of the steering wheel. The Coroner accepted the jury's verdict that the deceased's death was accident and there was no gross negligence . The jury agreed that it was caused by an error of judgement on the fire engine driver's part

William Brockes

Born in 1863 in East Ham to Charles and Sarah. In 1892 he was married to Sarah Maria Robinson and in 1901 he is living at 68, Clacton Road, Walthamstow. By 1911 he has moved to 22 Browning Road , Manor Park , however by this time he has become a widower, as his wife has died between January and March 1911. His occupation is a carpenter.

In November 1920 he his awarded the medal of OBE at which time he is a fireman lived at 18 Norfolk Road, East Ham. The citation for his award as quoted in the Chelmsford Chronicle is as follows "*For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty in the rescue of persons from buildings wrecked by hostile aircraft*"

At sometime he remarries to Alice Maud as in 1921 he dies at 209 Shakespeare Crescent, Manor Park, with probate going to his widow Alice Maud Brockes.

Edwin Lewis Roberts

Born in 1869 in Kidderminster, Worcestershire to Thomas George Roberts, (a watchmaker) and Mary Roberts nee Riva. In 1871 the family can be found living at St George Hanover Square. In 1881 he is living with his family at 11 Bamber Street, Fulham. At this time he is the eldest of 6, his siblings being Percy Mark, Marguerite E, Louisa M, Arthur A and Kathleen .

In July 1898 he marries Ellen Hunt in Hackney, London and in 1901 he is living at 104 Wakefield Street, East Ham. By 1911 he is living at 11 Nelson Street, East Ham and has three children Edwin Percy, Arthur William and Phillip.



Edwin Lewis Roberts

He is a Fireman with, originally, the London Fire Brigade and then transferring to the East Ham Brigade where he is serving in 1900 as on the 27th July 1900 he attends a fire at the premises of Mr C. Chambers, situated at the corner of Third Avenue and Romford Road which also set fire to an adjacent house. During the fighting of the fire Fireman Roberts of the East Ham Brigade was knocked insensible by a falling beam, and may well have been killed but for his helmet which was crushed in an extraordinary manner. (Essex Newsman 28th July 1900)

This was not the only time that Fireman Roberts was injured fighting fires, as he is later involved in a fire at the St Nicholas Industrial School when on Sunday January 6th, 1907, a fire broke out in the School's roof. Shortly before 4 a.m. a milk vendor on his way to work noticed the flames and raised the alarm. A bugle was immediately sounded by one of the officials and the boys, around 400 in number, were hastily awakened and marched to safety. The school room was gutted and the roof burned off. The only casualty was one of the firemen (Fireman Roberts) in attendance who was injured by a burning beam. He was using a hose from a dangerous spot when the beam collapsed and he was injured. His companions doctored him and he was taken home and made a speedy recovery. (<http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/IlfordStNicholas/>)

He is again injured whilst dealing with a fire at the premises of Bairnes and Balfour (a rubber tyre repairers) when he is standing on a beam hosing down the premises and the beam collapses and he falls into the fire, He is rescued unconscious by his fellow firemen and s taken to hospital.

During the War he is involved in several incidents including the explosion at Silvertown for which he is awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire.

He retires from the Brigade in 1929 although remains actively associated with the brigade until his death in 1936, at which time he was living at 67 Wolsey Avenue, East Ham

Robert James Holt

Robert James Holt was born in Woolwich, Kent in 1871 to William Holt (a coachman) and Elizabeth and in 1881 can be found living at the Lodge Gate, Penton Grafton, Andover.

In 1891, he is a lodger living at 10 Norman Road, Dartford, his occupation being a Groom. In 1893 he was married to Emily Haws at Mile End, Old Town, London. and in 1901 he living at 102 Wakefield Road, East Ham. By this time he has 2 sons, Robert William aged 7 (in 1901) and William H (aged 4 in 1901) and has joined the East Ham fire brigade as a Coachman. In 1911 he is still living at the same address with his wife and family.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he remains in the Fire Brigade and has become a driver of the motorised fire engine. in 1915 Holt was the driver of a Fire Engine involved in an accident in which a fellow fireman named Patten was killed as result of being thrown from the Engine. Coroner's jury found that the deceased death was accidental and caused by an error of judgement on Holt's part, thinking that he had room to pass a tramcar and cutting it too fine. The jury thought that the steering gear was broken as a result of the impact of the two vehicles. The Coroner said he could not accept the verdict as it had not been put to any of the witnesses if the the driver was to blame . The jury was passing a vote of censure on a man for something which did not appear in evidence, it was not reasonable and it was not English. IT was agreed to call expert evidence and Mr Edmonds, engineer who said the fracture could not have occurred without a considerable blow at one time or another, and it was possible that such an impact with the tram would have caused the fracture of the steering wheel. The Coroner accepted the jury's verdict that the deceased's death was accident and there was no gross negligence . The jury agreed that it was caused by an error of judgement on the fire engine driver's part.

Robert continued with the brigade and on the 19th January 1917 was one of the Brigade who attended the Silvertown explosion.

During the First World War in 1915, a Silvertown chemical plant owned by Brunner, Mond & Co was adapted for the production of trinitrotoluene (T.N.T.), a highly explosive substance. This was ordered by government since explosives were in great demand on the Western Front. The company resisted this development as the surrounding area was densely populated. Even handling T.N.T. was hazardous: many munitions workers found that it turned their skin yellow, caused nausea and chest pains.

Just before 7pm on 19 January 1917, a fire started at the works resulting in the detonation of 50 tons of high explosives. A large part of the factory was instantly destroyed together with several nearby buildings and streets. The flour mills and silos on the south side of the Royal Victoria Dock were badly damaged. Across the river on the Greenwich Peninsula, now the site of the Millennium Dome, one of the gas holders exploded. (*Exploring 20th Century London*).

On the 20th November 1920 he was one of the Fire Officers who were awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire for his work at this explosion. At this time he was living at 15 Nelson Street, East Ham

He remained in East Ham and died there in December 1950.

Charles John Price

Born in 1886 to George (a gas labourer) and Julie in Shoreditch, London. He was the youngest of 4 having 1 elder brother, Charles and 2 elder sisters, Mary and Adelaide.

In 1901 he was married to Mabel Beatrice Crocker in the West Ham Registration District, and is living at 114 Wakefield Street, East Ham. In 1911 he is still living at the same address and by this time he has 3 sons, Frederick, Charles and Thomas and 1 daughter Mabel Beatrice.

At the outbreak of War he remains in the East Ham Fire Brigade and is one of the Brigade who attend the Silvertown Explosion in 1917, for which in November 1920 he is awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire. At this time he is living at 13 Nelson Street, East Ham.

Frederick William Gurden

Frederick was born in East Ham in 1881 to Frederick Arthur Gurden, an agricultural worker and Margaret Elizabeth nee Mara. At the time of his birth, the family are living at 41 The Harrow, East Ham.

By 1891 the family have moved to 4 Makefield Place, East Ham and has grown in size with Frederick now having younger brothers, Harry, John and Charlie.

By 1901 Frederick has become the coachman to the East Ham Fire Brigade and is living at the Fire station in Makefield Street.

In 1903 he marries Emily Watson at West Ham and by 1911 he is living with his wife, Emily and two sons, Arthur Frederick and Charles Henry at 116 Wakefield Street, East Ham.

During World War 1, he does not enlist but remains with the fire brigade. In 1920 he was awarded the O.B.E. Medal for services rendered on the occasion of an enemy air raid, when houses were wrecked in Manor Park.

He died in May 1934 whilst he was a Sub Officer of the East Ham Brigade.

Edwin Hampshire

Edwin was born in Pulborough, Sussex in 1881 to John Hampshire, and agricultural labourer with s steam machine and Evaline Hampshire. He had one elder brother, Thomas A and the family lived at Broomers Old Farm House Pulborough, Sussex.

In 1886 John, his father, dies in Thakeham Sussex and in August 1888 his mother remarries William Henry Ratten and in 1891 Edwin is living with his mother and step father in Heath Cottage, Pulborough.

Ten years later in 1901 Edwin has left the family home and has become a domestic coachman boarding with a family named O'Donnell, living at Wildcroft Stables Putney, working for Sir George Lewnes.

In 1908 Edwin marries Mabel Allingham in Wandsworth, London and the following year his son, Reginald Thomas is born. By 1911 Edwin has moved to 126 Wakefield Street, East Ham, Essex and is now working as a coachman for the East Ham Fire Brigade.

During World War 1 he does not enlist in the armed services but remained as a member of the East Ham Brigade and in 1920 he was awarded the medal of the O.B.E. for his work at the Silver Town Explosion

During the First World War in 1915, a Silvertown chemical plant owned by Brunner, Mond & Co was adapted for the production of trinitrotoluene (T.N.T.), a highly explosive substance. This was ordered by government since explosives were in great demand on the Western Front. The company resisted this development as the surrounding area was densely populated. Even handling T.N.T. was hazardous: many munitions workers found that it turned their skin yellow, caused nausea and chest pains.

Just before 7pm on 19 January 1917, a fire started at the works resulting in the detonation of 50 tons of high explosives. A large part of the factory was instantly destroyed together with several nearby buildings and streets. The flour mills and silos on the south side of the Royal Victoria Dock were badly damaged. Across the river on the Greenwich Peninsula, now the site of the Millennium Dome, one of the gas holders exploded. (*Exploring 20th Century London*).

In 1934 Edwin now aged 53 is driver with the East Ham Fire Brigade when he dies after 23 years of service and Firemen from West Ham, Barking and Ilford attend his funeral.

Robert Henry Bone

Robert was born in 1873 in Greenwich to Augustus Bone, a fisherman and Ann nee Brittle, who were married on 14th February 1868 at Saint Paul, Deptford and in 1881 the family has increased by three, Annie, Edith and Edward and the family are living 88 Willingham Street, Clee with Weelsby, Lincolnshire, his father is still a Fisherman.

Ten years later the family are still living at the same address, however his Father has become a storekeeper in a factory and Robert has become a Fisherman.

On 20th January 1901, Robert marries Rachel Jane Shorey, who is 20 years of age at St Peter, Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets, London, by which time Robert has become a fireman in the East Ham Fire Brigade and is living at 122 Wakefield Street, East Ham.

In 1902 Robert and Rachel have a daughter Isabel, however Robert's marriage only lasts 8 years as in April 1909 Rachel dies In 1911 Robert is still living at with Isabel, and has employed a

domestic servant Martha J Lester who is 37 years of age. Later in the same years Robert marries Martha in the West Ham District.

Despite research it has not be able to trace when he left the Fire Brigade or when he died.

David Hollingsworth

David was born in 1868 in West Ham, Essex to David Hollingsworth, a labourer, and his wife Mary nee Spears. At the time of his birth he had two elder sisters Mary A and Elizabeth. By 1871 the family are living at 67 Albert Square, West Ham. Ten years later the family have moved to Leytonstone the he address being High Street 1 School Yard and his father has become a Turncock to a Water Company. David now has another brother Frederick who was born in 1872. Two years later his mother Mary dies in October 1883 in Essex.

In 1891, David is still living at home with his parents as the family have moved to 14 Oak Lane, Grove Road, Leyton and David is a Warehouse Porter. In 1899 David marries Fanny Margaret Ward in the West Ham registration district. By 1901 David is living at 98 Wakefield Street, East Ham and he has become a Fireman with the local Brigade. He has a daughter Ivy Lilian who is 8 months old. Ten years later he is living at the same address and has become an engineer with the Fire Brigade. He has two more children, Edgar aged 6 and Horace aged 3

He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1 but remains in the Fire Brigade and by 1920 he is Assistant Superintendent in the East Ham Brigade when he is awarded a medal of the Order of the British Empire, the citation reading "For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a chemical works."

He retires from the Fire Brigade on 22 January 1928 after 32 years service with the East Ham Borough Council. He moves to Kent where on 19th April 1937 he dies in Margate

Elijah George Cook

Elijah was born on 20th January 1867 in Wickam Market, Suffolk to John Cook, a bricklayer. By 1895 he was a fireman in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and was stationed at St Mary Street, Fire station and on 4th February 1899 he married Ellen Caroline Bagley an 18 year old spinster, at Woolwich Parish Church, London. In 1900 he has a child George Thomas Cook and by 1901 he has moved to the East Ham Fire Brigade and is living at 100 Wakefield Street, East Ham.

On 6th August 1914 at the outbreak of World War 1 he joined up and was attested. At the time he enlisted he was 46 years 7 months of age. He originally joined the Essex and Suffolk RGA with a regimental number of 4 and was promoted to Corporal on the 11th November 1914 and is posted to the 2nd Coy. Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) and has a regimental number of 340975. On 1st

March 1917 he was posted to 8th Labour Corps 2nd RWS regiment where he remained until the 7th March 1917 when he was returned to the 2nd Coy. RGA when he was found unsuitable for the Labour Corps. On the 8th June 1917 he was attached to the reinforcing department at Bexhill where he remained for two weeks, returning to the 2nd Coy RGA.

Throughout the War he remained on home duties and during this time his next of kin was Ellen Caroline Cook, his wife, who was living at 5 Nelson Street, East Ham. He was awarded the
On the 15th March 1918 the County Borough of East Ham apply for the release of 340975 Corporal E.G. Cook in order that he may return to his civil employment as a Fireman, and it was decided to release him and as a result Edward was transferred to the Army Reserve on 26th April 1918.

Elijah returned to the Fire Brigade in East Ham, retiring sometime before 1939, as in that year he is shown in the 1939 register as living with his wife and family at 9 Whalebone Avenue, Dagenham.

Ellen Caroline, his wife dies in 1956 whilst living at Churchdown, Gloucester.

Elijah survives until 3rd May 1962 when at the age of 94 he dies whilst living at 27 Winston Road, Churchdown in the parish of St Bartholomew and St Andrew, Churchdown, Gloucester

Epping

Harold Woore,

Born at 1 Garford Street, Poplar, to John W, who was a clerk employed at a Brass Foundry, and Georgina Woore. In his early 20's he became interested in Fire Fighting and joined the London Brigade as a volunteer fireman.

In 1893 he marries Alice Agnes Barwood (2 years his senior) in Mutford, Suffolk and by 1901 they have two daughters, Joyce aged 5 and Iris, aged 6 months. He is at this time the manager of an Iron Foundry and is living at 130 The High Street, Poplar.

By 1911, he has moved to Epping, and on his census form he states that he is a "manufacturer of nails used for fixing yellow metal on wooden ships bottoms" it would appear that he has something of an attitude problem with officialdom as he also includes on his census form that he thinks the questions in relation to the number of children are, to quote, "*are grossly offensive and impertinent*" and "*we are not going to be told by any official how many children we are to have.*" The house that he is living in is also quite large having seven rooms. He also has a lodger staying at the premises who is a works manager to an iron foundry and an engineer.



Whilst at Epping he does not join the Fire brigade but when the brigade turns out, he puts on his London uniform and attends and joins in the fire fighting. This is resented by the local brigade, and on at least one occasion resulted in Fireman Searle turning his hose upon Woore, striking him in the face and body and winding him. Harold writes a letter of complaint to the council, which eventually leads to the resignation of the then Chief Officer D.C. Poulton.

Eventually after a period of time when Harry Roe is acting Chief Officer, Harold is asked to become the Chief Officer of the Epping Brigade, in 1914. It is interesting to note that in 1914 the engineer of the brigade in C. Searle, the person who turned the hose upon Harold in 1913. Harry Roe becomes the Superintendent of the Brigade and whilst at the beginning works amicably with Harold Woore, eventually there is a rift between the two of them and in 1922 Harry Roe resigns from the Brigade.

After Harold becomes Chief Officer, he gradually took complete control of the brigade, eventually owning all four appliances. In February 1930 whilst attending a fire at "Snows" in Nazeing Harold receives a severe cut to his hand for which he has to receive attention, and another fireman named Wright was rendered unconscious when he was hit by a piece of falling iron and also received injuries to his legs. In December 1935 Harold is awarded a silver long service medal. He remained in charge of Epping brigade until the 1938 Fire Brigades Act when he was called to a special meeting of council at which the control of the Brigade reverted to the council. Harold was appointed as Chief Officer of the council fire brigade at £150 per annum, however after a short period of time he stated that he did not think that the brigade needed a full time Chief Officer and is offered and takes the post of part time Chief Officer at a sum of £25 per annum.

After a month in charge and two weeks after his appointment as part time Chief Officer, at a special council meeting, Councillor E.E Pring proposed "That in view of the unhelpful and antagonistic attitude exhibited by Mr Woore he be asked to tender his resignation." During the meeting it emerged that Harold was considered not to be loyal to the council as after he had realised that the new Act might put his fire brigade out of existence, he had begun a campaign against the council. Pring's proposal was reluctantly supported by Miss L Hart, who said that for the last 15 months there had been nothing but bickering about Fire Brigade questions and she thought that "*as long as Mr Woore holds the position of Chief Officer we shall not have very happy meetings.*" After a long discussion, Councillor Pring's motion was carried by 7 votes to 3.

Harold Woore retired to Norfolk and died on 14th November 1962 at the age of 96.

(I am grateful to the information contained in Epping Town Fire Brigade, A History by Jack Farmer published by The Epping Forest District Museum 39/41 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1EL and information from the Chelmsford Chronicle dated Friday 20th October 1939)

Harry W. Roe

Harry was born in Epping to James Edward Roe (a Licensed Victualler) and Eliza Sarah nee Stimson. He had an elder sister, Jane and an elder brother, George and are living at "The Globe" Lindsey Street, Epping.

In 1894, he becomes Fire Brigade Secretary to the new Epping Fire Brigade, and in 1896 he was responsible for the drawing up the rules for the Brigade. He is very involved with the Brigade and by 1899 he has taken up the duties of Treasurer of the Brigade. Between 1894 and 1914 he held the positions of Fireman, Foreman, Secretary, Treasurer, Second Officer in charge and Superintendent.

On 22nd August 1901, Harry takes part as a fireman in the annual fire brigade competition, coming 3rd in the one man drill and 2nd in the two man drill with fireman D. Poulton, After the competition there is a meat tea served at the Cock Hotel, after which there was the prize giving followed by a musical evening at which Harry accompanies the singers on the pianoforte.

In 1902 he marries Jessie Phillips, in Epping. On the morning of his wedding day he fell and fractured his arm, which he carried in a sling during the ceremony. 25 years later on his silver wedding day and at the same time as on his wedding day, he fell and broke his arm. (*Gloucester Journal Saturday November 5th 1927*).

By 1911 he has a daughter Queenie Phillips Roe aged 6 yrs. and is living at 1, The Drive, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. His occupation is a harness maker and his shop is situated in The High Street, Epping.

When D. Poulton resigns as Chief Officer of the brigade in 1914, as a result of a complaint by Harold Woore, Harry becomes acting Chief Officer, until he is replaced by Harold Woore, and he then resumes duty as Superintendent of the Brigade. At first there is an amicable working relationship between Harry and the new Chief Officer, but over time, this relationship turns sour, eventually resulting in Harry Roe's resignation from the Brigade in 1922.

In March 1923, Harry Roe becomes a urban councillor, receiving 441 votes out of the 805 electors who voted. However in May 1925 resigns his seat on the council, by letter, however, because the letter was not accompanied by the requisite guinea, the letter was not taken as a proper resignation and no action was taken.

In 1930, he is present, in what appears to be his role of one of the school managers, when the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Waterlow, opens the first Church of England Central Senior School in Essex.

Harry died on the 30th September 1956, whilst living at 17 Bury Road, Epping.

Jesse Burrige

Jesse was born in 1877 in Theydon Gamon, Essex to Jesse (a railway porter) and Maria. In 1881 he was living at Stewards Green, Epping.

In 1900 he was married to Lilly and moved to Colchester Street, East Ham.

Between 1901 and 1911, he moves to the High Street, Epping and has a son, Jesse aged 9 yrs and a daughter Dorris aged 5 yrs. His occupation is a Wood Sawyer. Between this date and 1917, he joins the Fire Brigade and changes his job to become a Driver Carman for the Epping Co-operative Society.

On 9th December 1915 he enlists in the RASC Motor Transport, as a private, his regimental number being M/337905 and is posted to Number 1 Reserve MT Depot.

On enlisting his descriptive form shows that he is 40 years 4 month, 5ft 10ins in height and weighing 156 lbs. He has a chest measurement of 38 inches with an expansion of 2 ins. He has a mole in the middle of his chest and is generally is of good physical development, although he states that he has an old injury to his right ankle and has slightly flat feet.

As he is attached to a reserve unit, he is allowed to return home until called up. He obviously tried to remain at home, particularly as he is a member of the fire brigade, as on 24th April 1917, the military representative at a local tribunal appeals for adjudication that Jesse should be mobilised, which the tribunal agrees to. As a consequence he is mobilised on the 19th June 1917 and joins Grove Park Depot on the 20th June 1917

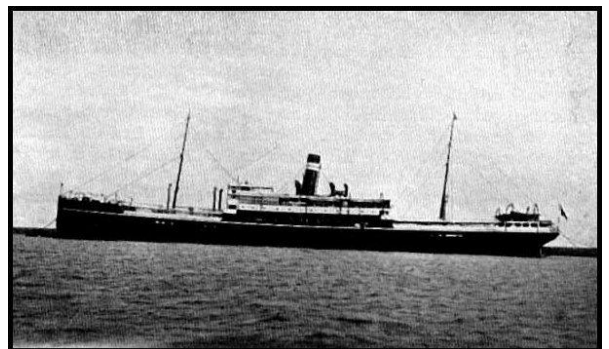
After training, on 28th September 1917 he embarks at Devonport aboard the HT Honorata en route to East Africa and he is transhipped at Durban and boarded the HT Caronia on the 4th November 1917, disembarking at Kilwa on the 13th November 1917. He is posted to 648 Motor Transport Company ASC.

On the 28th December 1917, just over 6 weeks after arriving in Africa, he is diagnosed with Malaria and admitted to hospital. He is discharged on 1st January 1918, but is admitted on the 26th January 1918 again with Malaria and this time spends several months in different hospitals including Lindi, Mombassa, and Nairobi.

On 13th December 1918 he is struck off the East African Force and on the 15th December 1918 he is transferred to 'Home Establishment' and embarks on the M.T. Coconada for transfer to England.

On arrival in England he is again posted to Grove Park and remains there until he attends a medical board and is recommended for discharge with Neuritis, which has affected his right arm and on 14th March 1919 he is sent to the Dispersal Centre at Wimbledon and is discharged with a medical disability of 20%.

He is awarded the Victory Medal and the British Medal.



M.T. Coconada



George Crabb

George Crabb was born on the 13th June 1886 the son of Henry Wilson Crabb, an agricultural worker and Dorothy (*nee Richardson*) who in total had 10 children, 2 of whom died. George was the third youngest son of the family, and at the age of 5yrs can be found living with the family in Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Epping.

In 1903 at the age of 17yrs, George joins the 4th Battalion (Territorial) Essex Regiment. Subsequently he also become a member of the Town Band and of the Epping Fire Brigade.

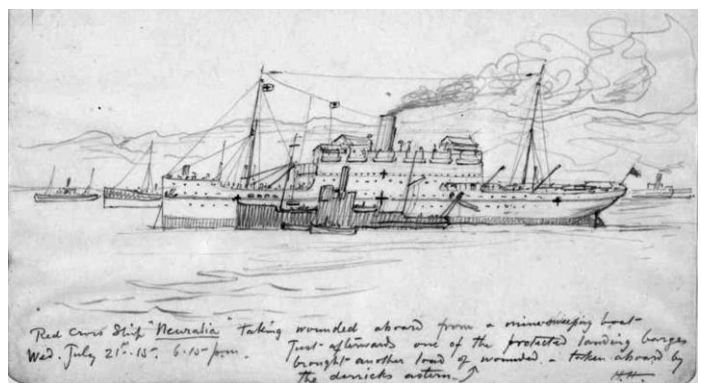
In the census of 1911, he is living with his mother and brother William in Hemnall Street, Epping and his occupation is a 'Turner'. He is also promoted to Sergeant in the 4th Essex Regiment

On Whit Sunday 25th March 1915, he marries Ada A Butcher who was the fourth daughter of the late Mr W. Butcher and Mrs Butcher of Lindsey Street, Epping, at the Congregational Church in Epping. His Best Man was his brother William Roger Crabb, who was at that time a private in the 4th Essex Regiment .

On the 21st Jul 1915, 3 months after his marriage, George and his brother William, embark with the rest of the 4th Essex Regiment at Devonport, bound for the Mediterranean via Lemnos. He landed on 12th August 1917 on the Gallipoli peninsular at Sulva Bay.

After 8 weeks, George contracts Enteric Fever and Dysentery and is taken to the military hospital in Alexandria. He is returned home aboard the HMHS *Neuralia* which was converted from a troop ship to a hospital ship.

However on the return journey and within sight of England, he dies of his illness.



Red Cross Ship "Neuralia" Taking wounded aboard from a mine-sweeping boat -
Wed. July 21st - 1917. 6.15 - from
Tues. afterwards one of the protected landing barges
brought another load of wounded - taken aboard by
the derrick's action.

On the 2nd December 1915 his funeral takes place at Epping, where a detachment of the 4th Essex Regiment were present and the route was lined by the Epping Fire Brigade, who followed after the mourning coaches with the manual engine, carrying George's helmet and Axe.

His brother William who was his best man and a private in the 4th Essex Regiment, landed on the 12 August 1915 he landed at Sulva bay, like his brother George. However he remained in Palestine and was wounded twice. He was killed on the 26th March 1917 at the first battle of Gaza, and is buried in Jerusalem, Israel.

Harry Leonard Shelley

Harry Leonard Shelley was born in April 1885 in Prittlewell, Southend on Sea to Joseph and Louisa Shelley, his father being a carman. Harry had 3 sisters and two brothers. However, his father did not seem too bothered about education for Harry's eldest sister as in 1883 and 1885 he was taken before the school board and fined for not sending his children to school.

By 1911 Harry was married to Mary and was living in Sunnyside Road, Epping and was a Driver/Manager of the American Anglo Oil Depot.

At the out break of war he did not enlist immediately but became a member of the volunteers in December 1915 but because of his occupation he was exempted until the military applied for the exemption to be lifted in November 1916 at a local tribunal, the appeal being allowed, not immediately, but from the 1st January 1917.

On January 11th 1917 Harry enlisted in the Norfolk Regiment at Warley in Essex.

On the 10th November 1917 the following press report in respect of Harry Leonard Shelley was published in the Essex Newsman 10th Nov 1917

"News has been received by Mrs Shelley of Epping that her husband Pte. H.L.Shelley Norfolk Regiment died in France on October 24 as a result of head wounds received in Action. Pte. Shelley was a keen member of Epping Rifle Club and last year won two silver spoons for shooting. He belonged to the Volunteers and also the Fire Brigade before joining the Regular Forces"

The army records below show that he was wounded with a fractured skull on the 25 October 1917 and died on the 28th October 1917.

Mary Shelley was informed by telegraph of the death of her husband on the 30th October 1917 On the 6th May 1918 Mary was awarded a war pension of 18 shillings and 9 pence

Harry Leonard Shelley was buried in Mendingham Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West Flanders, Belgium. He was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Albert Henry Wright

Born on 24th November 1892 in Epping to Albert (an Iron Foundry Labourer) and Harriet nee Moore In the census of 1911 he was the eldest of six, his siblings being John Wright 14 years, Mary Wright 13 years, Alfred Wright 10 years, Herbert Wright 7 years and Walter Wright 3 years, living at Chempners Cottage, St John's Road, Epping.

In February 1913 he joined the Volunteer Fire Brigade at Epping.

He did not enlist immediately upon the outbreak of war but in 1915 he enlisted in the army and was drafted into the Coldstream Guards and was posted to the new founded Machine Gun Regiment with a regimental number of 727.

The Guards Machine Regiment was initially formed in 1915 when machine-gun companies were beginning to form in the Guards Division. In April 1917, the four companies merged to form the Machine Gun Guards. In 1918, it was renamed again by Royal Warrant to the 6th or Machine Gun Regiment of Foot Guards. In June, the regiment was reorganised into five battalions. The Machine Gun Guards were disbanded in 1920. (Forces War Records)

Albert fought in France and was twice wounded, demobilised in 1919 as surplus to military requirements (having suffered impairment since entry into the service) and was awarded a silver war badge. He rejoined the Epping Fire Brigade.

In May 1916 he was married to Bessie Isobel Rose at Caterham St Surrey, whilst stationed at Windsor Barracks. He had 5 children by Bessie, Albert George born 1916, Rosie born 1918, Dorris Winifred born 1920, Walter Victor born 1921, Clarence John born 1923 and Bessie Isabel born 1928.

In December 1935 he was presented with a silver medal for long service by Mr A.F. Collinson, J.P. Chairman of Epping Urban District Council (Chelmsford Chronicle 6th December 1935).

Albert died in Epping on 3rd July 1962 at 69 years of age.

William John Perry

Born in Bishops Stortford to Henry Perry (a General Labourer) and Mary Perry, he had one elder brother Henry and a younger sister Susan.

In 1897 he joined the Epping Fire Brigade and in the brigade competitions in March of the following year he comes 4th in the one man drill, 3rd in the two man drill with fireman Bullock and wins the attendance prize for attending everyone of the 48 drills that year. In the 1903 Brigade competitions he comes 3rd in the two man drill and 2nd in the three man drill.

In 1911 he can be found living at Wellington Place, High Street, Epping. In 1887 he married Mary Ann Austin. In 1928 he retired from the Epping Brigade having reached the statutory age limit of

65 and the Brigade made him an honorary member in recognition of valuable service to the brigade.

He died in 1933 in Epping.

Stephen Cyril Church

Born in 1891 in Epping to Stephen John Church(a butcher) and Alice Church nee Algar, he had one elder sister Alice P. Church.

In 1911 he was single, living at the Homestead, High Street, Epping and his occupation was an assistant butcher. At this time he is living with his younger brother Gerald Walter Robert Church and his younger sister Ruby Ellen Church.

At some time before 1911 he joined the Epping Fire Brigade as he is in a photograph of the brigade circa 1911. He does not appear to have enlisted, However his brother Gerald does and joins the Durham Light Infantry in 1916 with a regimental number of 52817. On 22nd August 1917 Stephen was married to Mary Ann Pegrum, unfortunately his brother Gerald was killed in action on the 28th August 1917, six days after Stephen's wedding and was buried in France at the Villers Fauceon Communal Cemetery, Dept. de la Somme, Picardie.

in 1919 Stephen and Mary had a son Stephen Douglas Church, who died in 2000.

In December 1933 Stephen Cyril Church of the High Street Epping was summoned for driving a motor van at a speed exceeding that allowed for such vehicles and was fined £2.00.

Stephen died in 1960 at St Margarets Hospital, Epping at which time he was living at Little Dayne, Church Hill, Epping.

Albert George Sutton.

Albert was born in 1873 and was baptised on 6th June 1874 in Topcroft, Norfolk to Samuel Sutton, a bailiff and Sarah Ann Sutton nee Chenery. At the time of his birth he had 3 elder sisters, Katie L, Alice E and Harriet J. By 1881 he has a younger sister Rose J. The family are living in Redgrave Park, Redgrave, Hartismere, Suffolk and have a male servant, Thomas Rudd who is 17 yrs.

On 24 December 1893 he marries Annie (Mary Ann)Green at St Mark's Regent's Park Camden at which time Albert is a carman. and his father Samuel has become a Farmer

In 1897, his mother Sarah Ann dies in Topcroft, Norfolk and on 12 July 1916 his father Samuel dies in Norfolk.

In July 1900 Albert is called in a witness in a child protection case, in which a child, Albert Readington had died. He stated to the Magistrates Court that he had heard the mother threaten the child saying "You do, You do, You hold your head down again and see what I'll do. I'll go

indoors, fetch a clothes line, I'll strip you naked and thrash you with it! The child had been playing with grass and was very warm. She did not beat the child but gave it a glass of water. The mother was committed to the assize court for trial.

By 1901 Albert has moved to 3 Garden Terrace, Epping and his occupation is a house painter. He and his wife have four children, Annie F, Kate L, Albert GS and Sidney Baden Powell Mafeking who is 9 months. Ten years later in 1911 Albert and his wife and his two youngest children Albert and Sidney are living at the High Street, Epping and his occupation is a Hot Water Filter.

By 1909 Albert has joined the Epping Volunteer Fire Brigade and participates in the Brigade competitions of that year in which he comes 2nd in the One Man Drill and 1st with Fireman. S Oakley in the two man Drill. (which was considered to be an extremely fine Drill)

In 1912 he participates in the Epping Brigade competitions and wins the One Man Drill and comes Second in the Two Man Drill with Fireman Roe. The following year, in the same competitions, he comes 2nd in the One man Drill and 1st in the Two Man Drill with Capt. Poulton.

It would appear that Albert does not enlist in World War 1 because of his age and it is not known when he left the Brigade or when he died.

David Charles Poulton

David Charles Poulton was born on the 21st October 1864 at Coopersale Common, Theydon Garnon, Essex to Charles Poulton a Carpenter, and Ann Poulton nee Butcher. He had two elder siblings, Samuel who was 4 and Alice who was 2. In 1869 another sister was born, Amy, and in 1871 the family can still be found living at Theydon Garnon. 1873 saw the birth of another sister, Minnie, whilst in 1875 a brother Walter was born, followed in 1878 by the birth of William. By 1881 the family have moved to a cottage at the Railway Arch, Theydon Garnon. His father is still a Carpenter and David, who is 16 years of age has joined his elder brother Samuel as a Gardener. In 1882, another sister, Rose is born to the family.

In 1890, David is fined 2s 6d including costs at the Magistrates Court for allowing his dog to be at large unmuzzled.

By 1891 the family have moved back to Coopersale Common. At this time, his elder brother Samuel has left the family home and David has become a Carpenter after his father. The following year on the 1st August 1892, David marries Martha Clara Moore at St Alban's Church, Theydon Garnon, and in 1894, he and Martha have their first child, a daughter Amy Isobel, followed in 1897 by the birth of his son David Charles Jnr.



David Charles Poulton
Chief Officer Epping Fire Brigade circa 1911
photo Essex Fire Museum

By this time the family have moved to Epping High Street and David has become a member of the Epping Volunteer Fire Brigade as in 1898 he participates in the annual competition of the Brigade and comes first in the one man drill. The 1901 census confirms that he is living in Epping and that his occupation is a carpenter.

Between 1902 and 1906 he has two further sons, William and George Edward.

In the Epping Fire Brigade competitions of 1909 he comes first in the one man drill, 2nd in the two man drill with Fireman Searle and first in the four man drill with firemen Roe, (who is later to become his second in charge) Searle and Wright.

Later, in 1909 he is appointed to succeed JE Windus as Chief officer of the Epping Fire Brigade, the latter having resigned in consequence of having taken command of the 4th Battalion Essex Regiment. David remains Chief Officer of the Brigade until the early part of 1914 when he leaves the Brigade.

In 1913 he leads a contingent of Firemen at the funeral of the former Chief Officer J.E. Windus, who at the age of 45 years, had drowned whilst on Holiday in Salcombe in Devon.

As stated above it would appear that David resigns the post of Chief Officer of the Epping Fire Brigade in 1914 as a result of a complaint made by Harold Wore, as reference is made in newspapers of the time, and Acting Chief Officer Roe is in charge, until the appointment of Chief Officer Wore in the same year.

At the outbreak of World War 1, he does not enlist, probably due to age, however his son David Charles Jnr. does enlist in the 4th Battalion Essex Regiment with the regimental number 200351 and he dies of wounds on the 4th November 1917 whilst serving in the Egyptian Theatre of War.

David remains in business in Epping, during and after the war, working as an undertaker in Epping High Street. He dies on the 22nd December 1939 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, whilst living at 150 High Street, Epping and probate of his Will goes to his sons William and George Edward.

Frinton-on-Sea

Harold Corton

Harold was born in 1881 in Syston, Leicestershire to Walter, a boot manufacture's manager, and Anne. He has a younger sister Florence, who, at the age of 17, is employed as a Corset Flosser In the last quarter of 1902 Harold marries Alice Emily Larter in Poole, Dorset.

By 1910 Harold has moved to Frinton-on-Sea and is living at "Lindum", Upper fifth Avenue, Frinton

His occupation is a builders general foreman, and he and Alice have 5 children, Alice Elsie aged 7 yrs Katherine aged 6yrs, Claude aged 4 yrs, and twins Maud and Alec aged 2 yrs.

Harold has joined the Frinton Volunteer Fire Brigade and in 1910 at the Brigade completions he comes first in the hose and escape drills and is presented with the Shield by Lady Cory Wright and also received a silver plated teapot from Capt. Collins.

In 1912 when the Brigade held its annual competition on the Greensward on Saturday 17th August he comes first in the combined times of the hose and escape drills and is awarded his prize by Mrs Marshall of Selhust.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist immediately but on 3rd May 1916, he joins the Royal Navy for the period of hostilities. He is described as 5ft 8ins with a chest measurement of 35 ins. He has dark brown hair, Hazel eyes and 1a Fresh complexion. His Naval number is F 13670 and his occupation is shown as a Carpenter and Joiner.

His first posting is to HMS President II from 3 May 1916 to 14 December 1916, which was a training establishment and he served in several shore based establishments before being posted to HMS Killingholme from 12 June 1917 to 8 Dec 1917.

HMS Killingholme was originally a double ended paddle steamer built for the Great Central Railway's Humber River service. She was requisitioned for the Royal Navy on 21 Feb 1916 to carry two or three floatplanes for coastal anti airship patrols and based at Killinghome. After Killingholme his last posting was to HMS Daedalus which was a seaplane base established in 1917 at Lee on Solent,

At the end of the War Harold returns to the Fire Brigade and by 1927 Harold has become Chief Officer of the Frinton Brigade when the Brigade participates in their annual Display and at this time the Brigade held the Margaret Folker Memorial Shield for the largest amount of money obtained for the National Fire Brigade's Association widows and children. The Judge at the competition was Supt G. Gallaway of the Ipswich Five Brigade. and was accompanied by Lord Byng G.C.B, M. V. O. and Lady Byng.

Harold dies on 18" July 1966. At the time of his death he was living at 'Winkfield' Fifth Avenue Frinton -on-Sea. Eleven months later in June 1967, his wife Alice dies in Colchester.

Walter Stow.

Waller was born in 1874 to William, an agricultural worker and. Emma in Stoke By Nayland, Suffolk

At his birth he has an elder brother Charles, and by 1881 he has a younger sister Ada J.

Ten years later he has a further 4 younger siblings Kate Edith, Frederick William, Lotty Eliza and Elsie May and the family are living in Frinton and Walter is a General Labourer.

In 1901 Walter is still living with his parents and the family have moved to 7 Old Road, Frinton and a short time later in 1901 Walter marries Emma Davey.

Walter joins the Frinton Volunteer Fire Brigade and participates in the In 1909 at the annual Fire Brigade competitions and Walter wins the hose cart drill. The newspaper report covering the event stated that the "whole of the drill was exceptionally well done, no penalties were given against any of the men." (Evening Star Suffolk 9th September 1909)

The following year in the 1910 Brigade competition which took place in the Water Tower Field. He comes second in the hose drill and escape drill to Fireman Corton, and he was also presented with a special prize by Mr. W. Hayne.

By 1911 his address is given as the Council Offices, Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea and his occupation is a Road Forman for the Urban District Council

He has 3 children Sidney George aged 9 yrs, Alice Edith aged 7 and Evelyn Phillis aged 1.

In August 1913, Walter comes third in the Brigade competitions in the Hose Drill, which involved running out 50ft of hose and fixing a standpipe branch and keys, running a further 20ft to an escape ladder (already fixed), mount the escape, pick up man, carry down and place on ground, which he completed in 2 min 41 1/5 seconds and for which he was awarded an oil painting presented by Mr W Armitage.

Walter does not enlist in the Armed Services in World War 1 but remains in the Brigade, and eventually becomes Chief Officer of the Brigade.

He retires in May 1932 and is presented at the Urban Council with an illuminated and famed copy of a resolution of the council by Mr W. Lowther Kemp expressing their appreciation for his long service.

Walter dies on 27 April 1952 at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester and at the time of his death he was living at 67 Witton Wood Lane, Frinton-on-sea, Essex.

William Keeley

Born 1865 in Eye, Suffolk to James Keeley, a General Labourer and Emily nee Carter

In 1881 William is a Bricklayer's Labourer and is living with his parents and elder sister Elizabeth. in Lowgate Street Eye.

In 1885 he marries Mary Ann Kerridge.

By 1901 he has moved to Frinton on sea and is living at 6 Old Road. His occupation is a builder bricklayer and he has four daughters, Maggie, Alice, Hilda and Dorothy

By 1911 he is still living at 6 Old Road, Frinton and his occupation is the same. He has two further daughters Ethel Mary, and Phyllis Kate.

By August 1913 he has joined the Frinton Fire Brigade and comes first in the Hose drill which involved running out 50ft of hose and fix standpipe branch and keys; escape (already fixed) run 20ft to escape, mount escape, pick up man, carry down and place on ground. William managed to do this in 2mins 34 seconds. He was awarded a replica of a shield and a clock

William dies in Colchester Registration District of Essex in December 1939

His wife Mary Ann died on 28 December 1942, her address at the time of her death was Hadleigh Road, Frinton on Sea and administration went to Hilda Keeley.

James Spencer Wardley

James was born in 1878 in Thorndon, Suffolk to John Wardley a Game Keeper and Emma and the family are living at Hestley Green, Thornton. He had two younger siblings Edith and Luke.

By 1891 the family have moved to Keeper Lodge in Great Finborough, Suffolk. The family has grown in size and James has 4 further siblings, Caroline, John, Mary A and Florence.

On 25 December 1901 James marries Ellen Watkinson and in 1902 he has a son Spencer John Wardley.

In 1911 James is living at 9 Hadleigh Road Frinton-on-Sea and his occupation is a Foreman Joiner.

By August 1912, he has joined the Frinton Fire Brigade and he comes third in the combination drill of hose and escape, which he completed in 1 min 48 seconds. The following year in August 1913 he come second in the same competition behind Fireman W Keeley in a time of 2 min 39 seconds, and received a watch as his reward.

James dies on 8 April 1960 at the age of 83. At the time of his death he was living at Spencer's, Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea

John Thomas Cast

John was born in 1867 to Jesse Cast, a bricklayer's labourer and Elizabeth his wife. At the time of his birth John had one elder brother George and the family were living in Brentwood. By 1871 the family have moved to 10 Orchard Place, Hackney and John has a younger brother James. The family have two lodgers living with them George and Charlotte Salmon. His elder brother George dies in 1872 at the age of 6 years.

Ten year later in 1881 the family have moved to 10 Wood Cotts, Brentwood and the size of the family has grown with the addition of 4 more sons, William E, Jesse, Thomas and Joseph P. His father is still a Bricklayer's labourer and the family have one lodge William Moore who is an unmarried railway labourer.

By 1891 John is living with his Uncle and Aunt, Joseph and Hannah Reed in St Pancras, London and his occupation is a Pianoforte Porter. The following year, 1892, John Marries Eliza Dale at Holy Trinity, Haverstock Hill, Camden and by 1901 John and his family have moved to Frinton on Sea in Essex. His family consists of two children, John W and Grace L as well as his wife Hannah and they have a lodger, a William R Stud, a sewer drain worker. Their address is 2 Hadleigh Road, Frinton John's occupation is now a labourer.

By 1910 John has become a member of the Frinton Volunteer Fire Brigade and is the Fire Brigade competitions of that year he comes 3rd in the Hose Drill and Escape Drill.

In 1911, he and his family are still living at 2 Hadleigh Road, Frinton, and he has two further children Nellie May and George Henry. John's occupation is a labourer in the building trade and his eldest son John William is a time keeping clerk.

John does not enlist at the outbreak of World War One because of his age. However his son John W does enlist in the Army Cyclist Corps and survives the War.

In 1939 John is living at Eastern Hadleigh Road and his occupation is a House Painter and Decorator.

John dies in June 1944 in the Colchester Registration District. It is not known when he leave the Frinton Brigade.

Harry Finch

Harry was born in 1865 to Robert Finch, a blacksmith and Elgin nee Gonet. At the time of his birth he has four elder siblings, John, Frederick, Robert and Ellen, and by 1871 he has a younger brother, Newton. In 1871 the family are living in Top Street Martlesham and his grandmother Philadelphia Gonet is living with the family.

Ten years later, the family have moved to Woodbridge Road, Martlesham, Suffolk. His father is still a blacksmith. His grandmother is still living with the family at the age of 90 yrs.

In 1888 Harry marries Emma Ruffles in Wood bridge and by 1891 he moves to 1 Rose cottages Haverhill, West Suffolk. King has followed his father and become a blacksmith and he has a daughter Royal L. who is 3 months old.

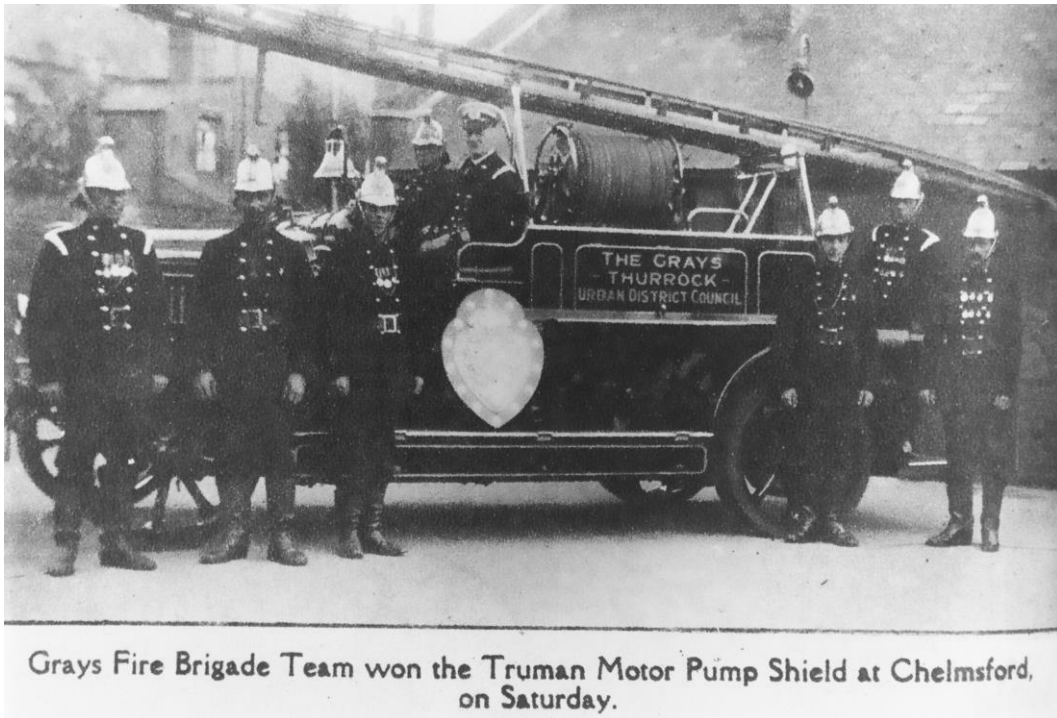
By 1891 Harry has moved to Frinton on sea and is living at Sidcup Villa, Hadleigh Road. He is a blacksmith and has two further children Ela G. and Marin May.

By 1910 Harry has joined the Frinton Volunteer Fire Brigade, as in that year he participates in the annual Brigade competitions, when he comes 6th in the Hose Drill and Escape Drill. In 1911 he is still living in Sidcup Villa, Hadleigh Road, Frinton on Sea he has another child, Alec Edward and his widowed sister Harriet B. Read is also living at this address. Examination of the census form in 1911 shows that one of their children has died. (This may be Ela a.). Harry does not enlist in the First World War because of age (He was 50 at the outbreak of war).

Little is known of the Frinton Brigade in World War 1 so it is not known if or when Harry leaves the Brigade.

It is believed that Harry died in June 1930 in Watford Hertfordshire.

Grays



George Henry Worns.

George was born on 30th November 1862 at Milton-next-Gravesend, Christ Church Kent, to George W WORNS, a Whitesmith. and Jane nee Smith, A Whitesmith was a person who principally works with tin, and could also be considered as a finisher of metal goods usually made from iron

He eventually has six siblings, Edward Charles, Bessie Susan, Harry John Waller, Ernest Percy, Eleanor Annie, and Rose Alice. In 1881, he and his family an living at 15 Manor Rd. Milton.



George Henry Worns
Essex Fire Museum

In 1891 George marries Mary Ann Green in Gravesend, Kent and moves to 44 Bridge Road, Gays Thurrock and his occupation is a plumber.

In 1901 he and his wife have moved to 50 High street, Grays and he has his own business as a plumber and decorator. Unfortunately 2 years later, his wife Mary Ann dies in Grays.

It is not known when George joins the Grays Fire Brigade, however in 1903 he is chairman and Captain of the Grays Fire Brigade's smoking concert held at the Bricklayers Arms to celebrate the termination of the Volunteer Brigade and the taking over by the Grays District council. In 1906 Captain Worns is chairman of the Annual Dinner held at Grays Fire station.

In 1902 George Henry Worns is mentioned in Kelly's Directory as a painter at 104 Clarence Road, and in 1906 he again appears in Kelly's Directing as a plumber and gas filter at 90 Clarence Road. Grays.

He also appears in Kelly's directory in 1912, 1914, 1917, 1922, and 1925.

He does not enlist in the armed services in World War 1 and is still captain of the Grays Fire Brigade in November 1915 as he is included in the Attendance and Drill Register held at the Essex Fire museum.

George dies on 29th July 1927 at Tilbury Hospital, Tilbury, with probate going to George Frederick Brook, lighterman, and Ernest James Mosley, storekeeper. At the time of his death, he was living at 23 Sheffield Road, Grays.

James Barker Hopcraft

James was born in 1867 in Norwich to James Hopcraft, a watchmaker and Catherine whilst his parents were living at Myrtle Cottages, Church Street, Heigham. By 1881 he has a younger brother, Charlie and the family have moved to Bartholomew Road, Bishop Stortford.

By 1891 James is 24 years of age and is a lodger living at 6 Napier Terrace, Islington and his occupation is a watchmaker's assistant.

In 1893 he marries Emily Maria English in Orsett and by 1889 James has become a member of the Grays Volunteer Fire Brigade when he attends a Fire at West Thurrock. By 1901 he has moved to 146 High Street, Grays, is occupation being a watchmaker. He has one son James aged 1 and the family have a domestic servant Florence Howard age 15 years.

In 1903 he was the senior fireman when he was promoted to second officer of the brigade.

In 1907 he was elected to the House Committee of the Tilbury Cottage Hospital.

Ten years later the family can be found living at 99 High Street, Grays. He has now become a Master Watchmaker and Jeweller and he has a daughter Catherine Ethel aged 4. He also has had two further children who have died in infancy. The family still have a domestic servant Emily Jarman who is 16 years of age.

During World War 1 he does not enlist in the armed services but remains with the Fire Brigade.

In 1925 he attends and is time keeper at the Eastern District Fire Brigade which is held at Brentwood.

James dies on the 4th January 1928 whilst living at 99 High Street, Grays, with probate of £4523 8s and 3d going to Charles Simmons, Clerk.

Isaac Steer

Isaac Steer was born in 1879, the youngest son of Isaac, a carpenter, and Martha nee Smither. At the time of his birth he had 7 siblings, Edith, Martha, Arthur, William, Reuben, Frederick and Alfred and by 1881 he has a younger sister, Lillie. The family can be found in 1881 and 1891 census living in Woking, Surrey at 1 Ferndale Road, which is opposite Wheatsheaf Green.

On 2nd June 1900 he marries Harriet Welton in Walthamstow, Essex and his occupation at this time is a carpenter. It would appear that he is illiterate and he has to sign the wedding register with his mark rather than his name, and in 1901 can be found living at 9 Quarry Hill. By 1911 he has moved to 38 Clarence Road, Grays He now has two children, Keith Charles aged 6 and Horace Victor, aged 2, his occupation being a plasterer. During his period at Grays, he joined the Grays Fire Brigade

At the outbreak of War, Isaac enlists at Grays into the Royal Garrison Artillery with the regimental number 280136 and the rank of Gunner.

On the 27th October he is sent to France where on the 30th September 1917 he dies of wounds and is buried at Canada Farm Cemetery, Ypres, West Flanders, Belgium. On the 30th October 1917 the army valued his effects at £7 13s. 7d which was given to his wife on the 11th February 1918. This was followed by a War Gratuity of £13 10s which was given to his widow on 10th December 1919.

He was posthumously awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

Thomas Charles Last



Thomas Charles Last
Essex Fire Museum

Born in Ipswich in 1890 to Thomas (a Quay Labourer) and Sarah. In 1901 he is living with his Uncle Julien Dimond (a gas fitter) and his wife Sarah at 148 Boundary Road, Barking. His siblings, Emily 10, Katherine 9, Florence 8, and Augusts 6 yrs are also living at this address, but there is no mention of their parents.

In 1911 he is living at 8 Brooke Road, Grays again with his uncle Julien Dimond who is now a widower and his mother Sarah who is now a widow and who is the housekeeper of the address. His sister August is also living there. Both Thomas and August are shown as borders of the census form of that year and Thomas's occupation at this time is a milkman.

At some time prior to 1914 he joins the Grays Fire Brigade as the adjacent photograph from the Essex Fire Museum indicates and which was taken in August 1914.

In 1915 Thomas marries Priscilla Jane Read. and his address is 35 York Road, Grays. During world war one, he joins the Queens Own (Royal West Kent) regiment, his regimental number being G/13188. The Regiment raised a total of 18 battalions during the First World War and was awarded 79 battle honours and 3 Victoria Crosses during the course of the war. He joined the second battalion which saw service in Mesopotamia.

After the war he is awarded the British War Medal and The Victory medal and upon demobilisation he rejoins the Fire Brigade in Grays.



He died on 5th April 1960 and administration of his effects was given to Priscilla Jane, his widow, his estate being £2402 14s 1 d. and he is still living at 35 York Road, Grays.

Alfred Sydney Rate

Born in Sittingbourne Kent on 14th June 1879 to Edwin Rate (boot and shoe maker) and Sarah Ann (nee Bright) In 1881 he is living at 20 Crown Yard, Sittingbourne. However by 1891 the family have moved to East Tilbury and his father would appear to have suffered a downturn in his circumstances, as his occupation is now given in the census as a labourer.

In the first quarter of 1898, Alfred marries Agnes Edith Frid at Orsett and eventually has six children by her, their names being Edward Alfred, Hilda Agnes, Florrie, William Herbert, George Henry and Albert Sidney, one of whom George Henry will also eventually join the Grays Volunteer Fire Brigade.

In 1911 his occupation is a labourer in a Chalk Pit and it is known from records held at the Essex Fire Museum that Alfred is a member of the Grays Volunteer Fire Brigade and he is living at 6 Benson Road Grays, which coincides with information held at the Museum., On Sunday 21st June 1914 he is awarded long service medal at Annual Church Parade by the Vicar Rev. A.H.W. Seally and afterwards attends the annual dinner took place at the Kings Arms Hotel.

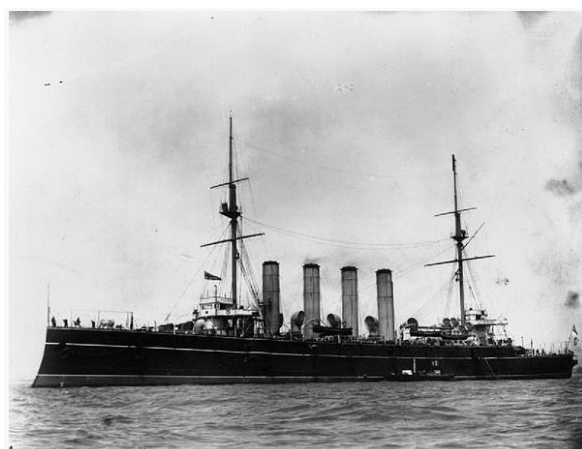
At the outbreak of war he does not enlist immediately, but on 15th October 1915 he joins the Royal Navy at which time he is 5ft 8 1/2 inches in height with a chest measurement of 38 inches and has a fair complexion and blue eyes. He also has the tattoo of a woman and a star on his right arm.

After a month training at HMS Pembroke, he is attached to HMS Europa, which was a Diadem Protected Class Cruiser. Between July 1915 and 1919, HMS Europa operated off Mudros and was involved in the Dardanelles campaign for which she received a Battle Honour. She was also the Flagship at Mudros. On 1 April 1916 Alfred returns to HMS Pembroke II, which is another name for Chatham Dockyards and remains there until 25th July 1917 when he is posted to HMS Actaeron, another shore based posting, a torpedo school situated at Sheerness in Kent. He is here until he is demobilised on the 22nd February 1919. On the 6th May 1922 he is awarded £15.00 Naval prize money and on 10th December 1923 a supplementary award of a further £2.00

He dies in September 1931 at the age of 52 years.

Arthur James Bradd

Born in 1875 in Grays, Essex to James Bradd (a Greengrocer) and Eliza Bradd (nee Humphreys). He was the third eldest in the family which comprised of 3 Girls, Eliza, Forence and Emily and 4 Boys Arthur, George , Charles and Percy. In 1891 the family are living at 44 High Street, Grays Thurrock.



HMS Europa

In 1895, Arthur joins the Grays Fire Brigade. Two years later, in 1897, he marries Edith Elizabeth Morgan at Orsett. By 1901 he is still living at 44 High Street, Grays and is a Greengrocer working on his own account and has two children Florence and Olive. He also has a general domestic servant, Mary A Bonner, aged 13. In the same year as the census an Essex Newsman report dated 26 January 1901, shows Arthur Bradd was charged with cruelly ill treating a horse, by causing it to be worked in an unfit state at Chadwell St Mary on 28th December 1900 and was fined 7 shilling and sixpence and costs. In 1903 the Chelmsford Chronicle reports that he is presented with a long service medal by Lady Warwick, at the opening of the Carnegie Library at Grays.

However by 1911 he and the family would have appeared to have suffered a severe downturn in their circumstances as his occupation is now a dock labourer, and there is no servant in the household, also the ten years since the last census, the family has seen its fair share of tragedy as since 1901 Arthur and Edith have had seven children, four of who have died. His family now consists of Florence, Olive, Stanley Arthur, Edward James, and Leslie Charles. He is now living at 69 Bedford Road, Grays.

He does not appear to have enlisted at the commencement of World War 1, but remains in the Fire Brigade, in which he eventually becomes 3rd Officer.

He dies on the 29th May 1946 at the time of his death he is living at 73 Bedford Road Grays. Probate is given to his widow Edith Elizabeth, (who dies 1/12/65. At 73 Bedford Road Grays)

Harry Coyston

Born Little Easton, Dunmow in 1887 married to Elizabeth Florence no children in 1911 Born on the 11th May 1886 at Little Easton to Richard (an agricultural labourer) and Elizabeth nee Ray. His early life was more traumatic than normal as his mother died when he was 3, in 1889, and he brought up by his father and his grandmother Rebecca.

In 1891 he was living at Park Road, Little Easton, Essex. In 1910 he married Elizabeth F.E. Bold and had two daughters by her, Gwendoline Florence born in 1912 and Jean M who was born in 1932.

In 1911 he was living at 22, London Road, Grays and his occupation is a milk carrier. At some time prior to 1914 he joins the Grays Fire Brigade, as there is a photograph held at the Essex Fire Museum of Harry prior to his enlistment in 1914.

At the outbreak of war he enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery as a driver, his regimental number being 43092, and he was posted to the 42nd Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. He survives the war and is awarded the British War medal, Victory medal and the 1914 Star.

Information from his son Bill, shows that during the War he was captured by the Germans and placed in a barn with a number of other prisoners. He was the only member of the group to escape and managed to find some woman's clothing and made it back to the Canadian line, where he was detained as a suspected spy and was nearly shot until his bonafides were confirmed.

He rejoins the Grays Fire Brigade and eventually becomes Chief Officer of the Brigade. Between 1930 and 1932 he acts as a judge in numerous Fire Brigade Competitions in the Essex area and in 1932 was presented with a case of Fruit Spoons for judging the Brigade Competition at Great Burstead by Capt. Wheatley.

He dies in 1971 in Essex. His wife survives him and dies in September 1978 in the registration district of Brentwood, Essex.

Arnold Edgar Hurrell

Born in 1880 in Yarmouth, Norfolk to George (a Billposter) and Elizabeth (nee Church) in 1881 he is living with his family in Reedham, Norfolk.

By 1891 the family have moved and can be found living at 3 Milton Road, Grays. On 2 April 1902 he marries Amy Caroline Johnson at Orsett and will eventually have 6 sons by her, one of whom (Sidney) dies in childhood, the remaining sons being, Ernest, George Arnold, Horrace Albert, William Frederick and Stanley Edward.

In 1911, the family are living at 5 College Road, Thurrock. In November 1912, Arnold assists police constable Mill in the arrest of James Gilmore and his wife of Bond Street, Grays, James for being drunk and disorderly and assaulting P.C. Mills in the execution of his duty and his wife for aiding and abetting her husband. Arnold was thanked by the Magistrates and by Supt. Laver of the Essex Police.

In 1914 it is known from Essex Fire Museum records that he was a member of the Grays Fire Brigade.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist immediately but on the 11th December 1915 he is attested and is posted to the Special Reserve, When attested he notes on his enlistment form that his occupation is a Butcher (and a member of the Grays Fire Brigade)



Harry Coyston, August 1914

He is posted to the Royal Artillery, Royal Garrison Artillery and his regimental number is 163904 and has the rank of Gunner. On his medical examination form he is shown as 5ft 6ins in height, weight 156lbs with a chest girth when expanded of 39ins. He has an old injury to left wrist but has no disability as a result. His religion is Church Of England and the terms of his service were for the duration of the war. On 23rd May 1917 he is appointed to Lance Rank.

In February 1918 he is posted to the 22 Observation Group 4th Field Survey Coy. which was based in France. He was posted to the Calibration Unit. (Full details of the 4th Field Survey Company can be found in *History of the Fourth Field Survey Battalion R.E. by Lieut. Col. M.N. MACLEOD D.S.O. M.C. R.E. Commanding Officer at c:\mike\wfront\wf100.doc on MS Word 1/24/12*) Arnold was discharged on 28th March 191 and was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

After the war he returns to the Grays Fire Brigade, as he is mentioned in the roll call book held at Essex Fire Museum.

He dies on the 2nd December 1955 whilst living at 103 Dock Road, Little Thurrock.

James Charles Goodrum and William Goodrum

James was born in 1880 in Grays, Essex to George Goodrum, a miller in a cement works, and Emma Hager nee Germany. At the time of his birth he has three elder siblings, George 7 yrs, Alice 5 yrs, and Edith 3yrs. By 19011 when James is 21yrs he has seven further siblings, Ellen, Emma, William 17yrs, Lillian, Ernest, Sylla, and Herbert.

In 1904, both James and his brother William are both members of the Grays fire Brigade, and take part in Fire Brigade competitions. In 1906 both brothers again participate in the Fire Brigade competitions in which William beats his brother into second place, winning the Gold medal in the one man hydrant competition. In this competition, each man had to turn 25 yards, pick

up one 50ft length of canvas hose, run another 25 yards to a fixed standpipe with the hose, connect and ran out, branch on and raise waist high and screw couplings and thread. James who comes second receiving a silver medal.

Both James and William also attend the annual dinner of the Grays Fire Brigade in 1906

In 1910 William wins the one man manual in the Fire Brigade competitions.

In 1901 James married Ethel Mary Ford and by 1911 he has two children. Harry aged 9yrs and Stanley age 4. He is at this time living at 78 Brooke Road, Grays and his occupation is a Dock Labourer.

In 1905 William marries Emma Lane in West Ham and by 1911 they are living at 80 Orsett Road, Grays. and his occupation is a Gardener. He has one son William aged 5yrs.

In 1914 James is presented with a Long service medal at the Grays Fire Brigade Annual Dinner.

At the outbreak of World War I, neither of the brothers enlist, and the Brigade Drill register book shows that William is still a member of the brigade.

William dies in 1938 in the registration district of East Ham and James dies on the 18th October 1943 at the Greenock Infirmary, Greenock. His home address at the time of his death was 64 Latimer Avenue, East Ham. Charles Goodrum and William Goodrum

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Alfred Charles Wray.

Alfred was born in New Brompton, Kent, in 1866 to Alfred, a painter and Emily. In 1881 he is the

eldest of 5 children and 'the family are living at 1 Shrub Terrace, tune Thurrock.

In 1908 Alfred marries Agnes Heymer in West Ham and in 1909 they have a daughter Wilhelmina Mary, in Orsett.

In 1911, he is living at 55 Orsett Road, Grays, Thurrock and his occupation is a House painter and decorator.

At the beginning of World War 1 he does not appear to enlist immediately, but has joined the Grays Fire Brigade and is shown in the Attendance register and Drill book in November 1916.

However the Royal Army Service corps records for April 1920 show that Alfred Charles Wray was an acting Sergeant with a regimental number of S4/058873. when he is awarded the British war medal and Victory medal.

In 1924 his daughter Wilhelmina Mary dies at Paddington, London and his wife Agnes dies in 1945 at Southend on Sea Essex.

Alfred George Claydon

Alfred was born in 1871 in Mucking, Essex to Henry, an Agricultural Labourer and Elizabeth.

In 1891 his occupation is a general labourer and is living at 3 Woods Cottages, West Thurrock.

In 1897 he marries Florence Annie Everett in Gravesend, Kent.

By 1901 he has 2 children W.H.D Claydon and H.A. Claydon and is living at 10 Maidstone Road. Grays, Thurrock, and his occupation is shown as a Brewery manager. However a short time later there is a change in his circumstances.

In 1907, he is gives evidence in a coroner's fatal accident inquiry into the death of Robert Alexander 57 yrs of age.

Alexander had died in Tilbury Hospital as a result of injuries sustained in an accident at Tilbury Docks on 21st December 1906, when he was hit by a bale that was being unloaded by crane. Alfred who by this time has become a docker, stated he was engaged in No 1 hold. of the SS Tropic on the night in question. He could not say anything respecting the set (or bale) that shipped.

The cause of death of Alexander was recorded as Accidental Death.

Alfred's address at the time of the Coroner's hearing was 93 Grove Road, Grays, Essex.

In 1911 he is living at the same address and his occupation is shown as a dock labourer

He now has 3 children Harold Alfred, aged 12 Vera Evaline, aged 9 yrs and Ivy Louisa aged 7 yrs.

At the outbreak of World War I there is no record of him enlisting in the Armed services and in 1916 he has joined the Grays Fire Brigade as his name appears in the Attendance and Dill book held at the Essex Fire museum.

He died in 1925 in the Orsett Registration District of Essex at the age of 55 years.

Walter Charles Linsell

Walter was born in 1876 in Ilford to Foliott Linsell, a general Labourer and. Emma nee Breton
In 1878' a brother Mark Daniel is born,however, unfortunately an elder brother,Follett Edwin, who was, born in1865 dies.

In 1880 Walter's family have another Ernest William and in 1881 the family are living in Chapel Place, High Rd, Ilford.

In 1882 another brother Francis George is born. However four years later Ernest, who was born in 1882 dies in Romford. In 1891 the family have moved to 2 Hainault Street. and Albert's occupation is a Labourer.

In 1897 his mother Emma dies and in 1901 Walter is living with his brother in Law Gerry Cox and his family in Green Lane, Ilford. His occupation is a glass cutter.

In 1906 he was a member of No 3 company 1st Essex Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers) and won the Cup in the Morris Tube Open competition on Wednesday Nov 7th, the cup being presented by Messrs Williams and Jennings
He is also the best shot in C Company with 99 out of a possible 112

In 1907 he marries Emily Jane Howard in Romford. and in 1911 he is Living a't 51 Arthur Street, Grays, his occupation is a Water Inspector.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist in the Armed Services but in 1916 he is a member of the Grays Fire Brigade as his name appears in the Attendance and Drill Register which is held at Essex Fire Museum

He died in March 1923 in Orsett.

Edward Morgan

Edward was born in 1853 to John, an agricultural labourer and Sarah nee Lazell in Grays, west

Thurrock.. At the time of his birth he had an elder sister Jane and is living in Argent street, Grays. By 1861 he has another sister Hannah In 1871 he is a groom servant in the employ of William May, a farmer of 250 acres employing 9 men and 2 Boys.

By 1881 he is married to Elizabeth and is living at 3 Askey cottages, Grays and his occupation is a Stevedore. He has 3 children, Emily, Edith and another daughter who has been born recently and is shown in the census as "infant"

By 1891 he is a cement Labourer and is living at 136 London Road., Grays. and. now has 4 more children, Ethel, Koonce, Albert and Bertha.

It is about this time that he became a member of the Grays Volunteer Fire Brigade. In 1902 he is presented with a silver medal when Grays Fire Brigade became part of the council (The medal in held at Essex Fire Museum)

In 1903 he was Senior fireman and was appointed Third officer (Engineer) of the Grays Fire Brigade. under Captain Worns and Second Officer Hopcraft..

In 1911 he is living at 28 London Road, Grays, his occupation is a Cement Labourer and there are now only 2 children living at home, Albert aged23, who like his father is a Cement Labourer and Rosa who is not working.

On September 10th 1913 he attends his last Drill Evening at Grays. Fire Brigade (according to Grays Drill Register for that dale held at Essex Fire Museum)

In 1914 he is presented with a silver Long service medal for his work in Gays Fire Brigade by the National Fire Brigade's Union. Morgan

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Albert William Perry

Albert was born in 1880 in Barking, Essex to William, a blacksmith and Eliza nee Borger. In 1881 the family are living in Ripple Road, Barking and the census shows that he has one elder brother Ernest, and one younger, George William who is less than 1 month old.

Ten years later in 1891, it appears that George William, may have died as he is not mentioned in the census, but Albert now has four further siblings, Walford, Ethel, David and Anna and the family are still living in Barking, and his father's occupation is now shown as a Blacksmith and Farrier. In 1901, Albert is a boarder at 7 Coverdale Road, Barking with the Bullen family, and his occupation is believed to be a Baker.

On 16th August 1905 he marries Elizabeth Jane Walling in Barking, Essex and the following year in 1906, his son Albert John Perry is born. Sadly in 1910 his wife, Elizabeth dies and in the census of 1911 he is shown as a widower living with Albert John and a Housekeeper, Alice Maud Kemp at 1 Kent Road, Grays and his occupation is a Dairy Manager. Later in 1911 he marries his housekeeper, Alice Kemp in Orsett.

In 1914, on the outbreak of World War 1, he does not enlist in the armed services but in November 1915 he joined the Grays Fire Brigade where he remains until 22nd March 1917 when he attends his last call out which happens to be to a false call. After this date his name is erased from the Grays Drill register, which is held at the Essex Fire Museum at Grays.

He dies in Rochford in September 1931.

Walter George Cobbold

Born in 1878 in Orsett, Essex to John Cobbold (a gardener) and Eliza, In 1881 he is living at 3 The Green, Little Thurrock, and he is the youngest of the family, which consists of his parents, and 6 siblings, Honour 22yrs, Herbert 19yrs, Ernest 12 yrs, John 10 yrs, Naomi 8 yrs and Kate 6yrs.

In 1905 he marries Phoebe Thurza Wilson at West Ham and has three children by her, Dorris, Walter Albert George and Frederick John and is living at 26 Bridge Road, Grays Essex, his occupation being a labourer. He has at this time been a member of the Fire Brigade in Grays for some time and on Sunday 21st June 1914 he is awarded a long service medal at annual church parade by the Vicar Rev. A.H.W. Seally and afterwards the annual dinner took place at the Kings Arms Hotel.

At the outbreak of World War 1, he enlists and is attested on the 14 December 1914 and is posted to the Local Guards of the 6th Battalion, Essex Regiment, his regimental number being 4345, At this time he is living at 32 Prospect Road, Grays, (which is the address held on records at the Essex Fire Museum.)

Between the 19th June 1915 and the 22nd June 1915, whilst at Rainham he was absent without leave and was also charged with Feigning sickness and Falsifying a sick report for which he received 28 days detention. On 29th April 1916 he was transferred to the 69th Protection Company Royal Defence Corps with a regiment number of 27125. on the 23rd December 1916 he was also charged with disobeying an order of a superior officer. He was demobilised in February 1919 whilst in Eastern Command, and his medical category was B2.

It is not know if he rejoined the Grays Fire Brigade.

Great Bardfield

Rayner Killingback

Rayner Killingback was born in 1881 in Great Bardfield, Essex, to Henry Killingback, an agricultural labourer, and Sarah nee Johnson. At the time of his birth the family were living in Bell Lane. Great Bardfield, which is the property of his maternal Grandfather Samuel Johnson. In 1891 the family are still living in Bell Lane, however, in 1899, Henry Rayner's father dies and by 1901 Rayner is a servant and is working at the Park Hotel, Cuckoo Road, Hanwell, Brentford.

On the 10th May 1902 Rayner marries Mary Amelia Batty and at the time of his marriage he is a carpenter, living at 73 Warwick Road, Ealing.

By 1911 his family are living at 6 Bridge street, Great Bardfield. He has four children, Henry, Lily Ruby and Raymond and his occupation is a Carpenter and Joiner.

After his marriage in 1903 Rayner is living at 10 Conningsby Road, South Ealing, late of Great Bardfield and was charged with stealing at Great Bardfield on Feb 25 1900 a number of carpenter's tools value £2. The Defendant had returned to Great Bardfield on Saturday evening and was arrested. William Robinson, wheelwright, Bardfield proved losing the tools and PC Brooks said he found them at the Accused's lodgings. Defendant said he bought them off a person he did not know. He eventually pleaded guilty and was fined £58, or, in default, one month's imprisonment. The fine was paid.

By 1914 Rayner has become a fireman in the Great Bardfield Volunteer Fire Brigade, as verified by records held at the Essex Fire museum.

There was no record of Rayner enlisting in the armed services in World War I and it is not known when he left the Brigade, however he remains in Great Bardfield and in 1932 he is present at the marriage of his youngest daughter Ruby to Mr P. Barnard. At the time of the marriage the family are living at Shephard Place, Great Bardfield. Unfortunately 7 years later his son Raymond dies at the age of 28.

Rayner dies at the age of 81 in March 1963 with the death being registered in Halstead, Essex

Joseph Benjamin Adams

(Benjamin Joseph)

Benjamin was born in 1877 to John Adams, a butcher, and his wife Julia nee Turner in Bardfield, Essex. He has four elder siblings, Kate E. Fred A., Minnie and Ellen M. and by 1881, the family are living in the High Street, Great Bardfield, and he has a younger brother, Frank. By 1891 the family are still living in the High Street, Great Bardfield. Benjamin, at the age of 14 has become a Drapers Apprentice

In the last quarter of 1904 he marries Annie. Elizabeth Fitch in the Dunmow Registration District. In 1905 his daughter Ella Matilda Hughes was born followed in 1910 by the birth of his second daughter Margaret Lilian. By 1911 he and his family are living in Brook Street Great Bardfield and his occupation is a Cycle Agent By 1914 he has joined the Great Bardfield Volunteer Fire Brigade as verified by records held in the Essex Fire Museum.

It is not known if Benjamin joined the armed services during World War 1, or when he leaves the Volunteer Fire Brigade. However it is known that he is still residing in Great Bardfield in 1926 when he is a motor garage proprietor. He was summoned for driving a motor car without a licence and was fined 5 Shillings.

In August 1930 Edward Battle, Oyster Bridge, Great Bardfield, an agricultural machinist was Summoned for Shaking a sixpenny packet of cigarettes, the property of Joseph Benjamin Adams on July 28th and there were two further charges relating to similar offences on July 11 "and 18th. P. c. White stated that saw the defendant draw a packet of cigarettes from a machine. The Witness then found a farthing with the edge filed away lying in the bottom of the Machine. The Defendant pleaded guilty to the three charges and asked for five others to be taken into account. He stated that he had learnt the trick whilst in the Army. Fined £2.

Benjamin dies on 22 December 1951 at Black Notley Hospital, Braintree. At the time of his death he was living in the High Street, Great Bardfield.

Richard Mizen

Richard was born in 1888 to Walter Mizen who was a farmer and Eliza nee Coote. At the time of his birth he had three elder siblings, Alfred, Arthur and Priscilla and by 1891 he had a further sister, Sarah Beatrice Ellen. By 1901 the family are living at Bridge End Cottages and his father is no longer a farmer but is a horse keeper on a farm Richard has four further siblings, Frederick, George, Florence and May. At the age of 12 he is an agricultural labourer. Ten years later in 1911 the family have again moved to Bell End Cottages, Great Bardfield and his father has become a farm labourer. Richard is also a farm labourer and is still single. Examination of the census

records for that year reveals that 2 children have died and a further two daughters Nellie and Rose have been born.

In 1910 Richard has a child, Richard George William, who was born on the 2nd July, with Alise Louisa Sprigett, but it not until 12th November 1912 does he marry Alise at Little Saling and in 1913 he has another child Frederick Walter on 2nd October 1913.

It is not known when he joins the Great Bardfield Volunteer Fire Brigade, however it is known, from Essex Museum Records, that he is a member in 1914. After the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist immediately, but on the 2nd January 1915 he joins the Army Service Corps.

His regimental number was T4/038246 and he was attested on the 2nd January. This was also the date he had his medical. His declared age was 26 years 3 months and he was 5ft 5 1/2 inches weighing 135 lbs. He had a chest measurement of 37 inches when fully expanded with a 1 inch range of expansion and he had 6/6 vision in both eyes.

On 26th March 1915 he embarked at Southampton and the following day disembarked at Harve and was posted to the 28th Reserve Park. On the 8th April 1915 he was posted to the 3rd Field Ambulance. He was granted leave on 26th November 1915 to the 3rd January 1916 and 27th August 1917 to 5th September 1917. He had a further period of leave from the 9th October 1918 to 28th October. On 29th April 1919 he embarked from Antwerp with the 3rd Field Ambulance and on the 10th May he receives his protection certificate and Certificate of Identity at Woolwich No1 Dispersal Unit and from this it can be ascertained that the Theatre of War in which he served was France. He was awarded the 14/15 star, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

Richard dies at the age of 67. In March 1956 in the Braintree Registration District.

Great Burstead



Great Burstead Fire Brigade circa 1912

John William Wheatley

John William Wheatley was born in 1878 in Ilford, Essex to William Robert Wheatley(a Farrier) and Elizabeth nee Keable. In 1881, the family are living at 5 Watters Cottages, Ley Street, Ilford. By 1891 he had a younger brother, Edward and sister Emma A.E.and the family are living at 5 Park Terrace, Ilford,

In the South African War, John was a Sergeant in the Coldstream Guards with a regimental number of 392 and during this conflict he was awarded the Queens South African Medal with the following Clasps, Belmont, Modder River, Driefontein, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and KSA2.

On returning from this conflict he lived in Billericay and was the founder of the Great Burstead Fire Brigade in 1903. Also in 1903 he married Margaret Isabel Gibbs in Romford, Essex, by who he was eventually to have five children, Arthur William R, John Joseph, Richard G, Vendla M and Leonard E Wheatley.

In 1909 he was a Scout Leader in Billericay with a troop of 15 boys and in that year the troop receive first aid training by Dr J.D.Wells.

By 1911 he is living at Fairview Villa, Norsey Road, Billericay and has become a School Attendance Officer.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist immediately but in 1915 he receives a commission in the Middlesex Regiment with the rank of Captain. (In the First World War, The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) formed a total of 49 Battalions this was mainly due to a surplus of volunteers seeking to enlist. The Regiment received a total of 81 battle honours, 5 Victoria Crosses and lost approximately 12,270 casualties during the course of the war.)



John Wheatley is third from the right in this photo of Great Burstead Fire Brigade circa 1912

After the War he returns to Billericay and continues as Chief Officer of the Great Burstead Fire Brigade, and in his job as School Attendance Officer, There are many references to him in the Chelmsford Chronicle and Essex Newsman, including one in 1924, when he gives evidence in which a school headmistress is summoned for canning a truant and the mother of the truant is summoned for assaulting the Headmistress.

In 1924 John was the Honorary Secretary of a representative committee responsible for a remembrance service held at Billericay War Memorial. He also has a Charitable side to him, as in 1929, he writes to the Chelmsford Chronicle, thanking all the people who had sent parcels of cast off clothing and boots as a result of his recent appeal and which had been given to the most deserving cases, and he renewed his appeal for further gifts of clothing.

In 1934 he resigns as Chief Officer of the Great Burstead Brigade of which he had been the founder. During his time with the Brigade he had also been a chairman of the National Fire Brigade Union Eastern Branch and had been well known as a judge in Fire Brigade Competitions. He continued in this latter occupation, although having retired for several years.

On the 10th September 1953, John William Wheatley of 'Llesna' Norsey Road, Billericay, dies and probate is given to his son Arthur William Robert Wheatley.

Ernest Savill

Ernest Savill was born in April 1890 to David Savill a furniture dealer and Clara Ann nee Coleman at Brentwood, Essex. He was to eventually have 15 living siblings.

His family would appear to have led a nomadic existence as his eldest brother David was born in Billericay, His elder brother William and his elder sister Maud, being born in Ingrave and his elder brother Albert being born in Ingatestone, shortly after Ernest was born and before the birth of his younger sister May Lillian, born in 1893, the family move to the High Street Billericay and remain there. It was whilst they lived in Billericay that the following family portrait was taken.



Ernest believed to be third from left in this photo of Great Burstead Fire Brigade Circa 1912

In 1910, Ernest marries Nellie E Robinson and they move to another location in the High Street, Billericay, as the census of 1911 shows that this is where they are living and at this time Ernest's occupation is given as an Assurance Agent for the Pearl Life Assurance Group, although it is believed that he is also working for his father in the furniture shop in the High Street. In May 1914 he is involved as a prosecution witness in a case against a Wallace Howard, a news vendor, late of Great Burstead who has embezzled 10s 6d from Ernest. Ernest states that he does not wish for the case to proceed, and the defendant having been in custody for approximately 1 week, the Chairman of the Magistrates stated that the caused would be let off with 1 day imprisonment which meant that he would be discharged.

At some time Ernest has joined the Great Burstead Fire Brigade, possibly as a result of his father's shop being burnt down in 1910.

On 3rd July 1914, his father David suddenly dies at the age of 60 and the funeral takes place in Billericay at which Ernest is present.

On the outbreak of World War 1, he does not enlist, but in 1916 he attends a local tribunal, where Mr E.G.Wheeler (later Captain Wheeler of the Great Burstead Fire Brigade) appeal for several members of the fire brigade to be exempted from serving as the brigade had been reduced to the lowest possible staff constant with public safety, and that Ernest in addition was keeping the family business going for his mother and was not in particularly good health. At this time the appeal and a conditional exemption was allowed until the 30th September 1916. At the Local tribunal on the 23rd September an appeal for a conditional exemption for Ernest was refused. In October 1916 at a Country Tribunal an application was made personally and on behalf of the Great Burstead Fire Brigade for Ernest Savill with Captain EG Wheeler arguing that there were originally 24 men in the Brigade and that they had only 5 men left including Savill and one other for whom appeal was being made. The Chairman of the Tribunal stated that they could not exempt a men of 26 and therefore the appeal was refused. It must be remembered that unlike in the second world war, the Fire Brigade was not a 'protected' occupation.

This should have meant that Ernest would now have to enlist, however, at this stage the search for information goes cold and his details cannot be found in Army or Naval Records for the time. It could be that the records were destroyed in the second world war during a bombing raid, in which about 50% of service record were destroyed.

What can be said is that Ernest survives both World Wars and dies in Chelmsford in 1956.

William Cornish

Born 1876 Great Saxham Suffolk to Philip (a Thatcher) and Emma nee Piper. In 1881 he lived with his family at Turnpike Cottage, Great Saxham .Between 1881 and 1891 the family move to Risby in Suffolk. In the census of 1891 he is living here with 7 Brothers, Walter, Charles, Philip, Alfred, George, Fred and Arthur and one sister Ellen.

In 1901 William marries Harriett Hardy and moves to Rayleigh in Essex. By 1906 he and his family are living in the High Street, Billericay and his occupation is a Journeyman Blacksmith. He has become a member of the Great Burstead Fire Brigade. He participates in the annual Fire Brigade competitions between 1906 and 1913, which are organised by the Great Burstead Fire Brigade, obtaining several prizes during the competitions.

He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War One, probably because of his voluntary work in the Fire Brigade and his age. However in September 1916 he appears before a Local Tribunal and is given a conditional exemption. He remains in the Brigade and participates in a number of competitions in the 1920's. However in 1937 has become sub officer of the Brigade when he is presented with a 20 years medal and 5 year bars by the Chairman of the Billericay Council. It is also of note that his son, Charles, has joined the Brigade in 1927 and is presented with his ten year medal at the same time as his father.

Edward George Wheeler

Born in 1872 to Ebenezer, a bricklayer and Mary A. Wheeler. By 1881, Edward has 6 siblings ranging from a 20 year old brother to a 3 year old Frank. and is living in Sun Street, Great Burstead. By 1891 he is living with his family in the High street Great Burstead, and his occupation is a bricklayer's assistant.

In the second quarter of 1897 he married Ada Ann Briton in Billericay and by 1901 he has a daughter Jessie who is. 3 months old, and is living in Worsley Road, Buttsbury, his occupation being a Bricklayer.

By 1911 Edward has moved back to the High street Billericay, and he now has 3 more children Maud Ellen, hilly Grace and Sidney Edward who is 10 months old.

In 1910 Edward unfortunately witnessed his elder brother Walter being killed by a wall which he and some other men were demolishing on the Hare Lodge Estate, Squirrels Heath. Even though Walter was quickly extricated from the debris, his condition appeared to be serious and he was removed to Romford Victoria Cottage Hospital where he died soon after arrival

The Great Burstead Fire Brigade was formed in 1903 and it would appear that Edward was one of the founder members as by 1905 he was second officer of the brigade when he won the One Man Dill in the Brigade Competitions and his team won the four man Turn-out Dill event. He is still second officer (in 1912 when his team wins the Four man wet drill turn out

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist and in 1917 he is acting captain of the brigade when at a tribunal he appeals for Edward Bull, W. Cornish and Fred Smith when a conditional exemption was granted to Bull and Cornish and it was stated that Smith had since been medically rejected.

After the War Edward remains in the Brigade and in 1925, he is present at the annual outing of the Great Burstead Fire Brigade to Cambridge.

It is believed that Edward died in 1956 in the London Hospital at which time he was living in Chadwell Heath, Essex.

Edward Bull.

Edward was born in 1886 in Billericay to George, a Job master, and Emma and in 1891 can be found living in the High street, Great Burstead. He has 5 siblings, William 18 yrs, Ada E 16 yrs, Ellen 11yrs, Anne 9yrs and Herbert 2 months.

In 1901 the census shows that he has two further siblings, Frederick who is 18 and Florence who is 5, Edward is, now employed as a postman.

By 1911 he is married to Alice and has a son Bernard Edward Bull who is 2 years of age. It is not known when he joined the Great Burstead Fire Brigade, but in 1916 he is appealed for by the E. G. Wheeler who was appealing for Supt Wheatley, who has joined the armed forces, and Edward was one of the men appealed for and was given a conditional exemption. In 1917 there is another tribunal at which he is stated to be the driver of the fire engine and he was given a further conditional exemption until 30 June 1917.

In Sept 1912 he is best man to Roger John Cottey at his wedding to Miss Kitty Wheeler of Billericay.

In 1926 he is fined £1.00 for failing to have proper lights on his car

It is not known when he left the brigade.

Henry Cole

Henry was born in 1881 in Leyton, Essex to Frederick (a House Decorator) and Matilda. At the time of his birth his family are living at Daisy Cottage, High Street, Leyton and he has 4 siblings, Matilda aged 13, George aged 13 yrs, Willie 5 yrs and Daisy aged 1.

By 1901, he is still living at home with his parents, and his occupation is a house decorator, working for his father at home. He now has twin sisters Lilly and Rose, aged 9.

In 1904 he marries Emily Adelaide in Yarmouth and shortly afterwards moves to Billericay in Essex and by 1907 he is a member of the Great Burstead Volunteer Fire Brigade when he participates in the Brigade competitions in Billericay.

In 1909 he is involved in the Fire Brigade Competitions and comes first in the Two Man Hose Cart Drill with Fireman A Crook, second in the one man manual and second in the Two Man Manual with Fireman W. Cornish.

In 1911 he has two sons, Frederick aged 5yrs and Wilfred Henry aged 3yrs and the family are living at Myrtle House, High Street, Billericay and Henry is a plumber and house painter, working for himself. The same year he participates in the Fire Brigade competitions and comes first in the One Man Manual, first in the Two Man Hose Cart with Fireman Cornish and third in the Two Man Hose Cart Drill.

The following year he again participates in the Brigade Competitions and again comes first in the One Man Manual Drill. He comes second in the Two Man Manual with Engineer Pearmain and fourth in the One Man Hose Cart Drill.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist and in November 1916 he is appealed for at the County Tribunals and his case was adjourned for three months. In February 1917 he again appears before a County Tribunal and this time is allowed one month to find munition work. In March 1917 he is given a conditional exemption while on work of National importance and in May 1918 any application for him was withdrawn as he held a protection certificate.

It is not known when he leaves the Great Burstead Fire Brigade, however it is after 1922 as he participates in the Brigade Competitions in this year.

Henry dies in December 1954 at the age of 73 years and his wife Emily dies in March 1974.

Arthur Eli Crook

Born in 1885 at Hutton in Essex to Eli Crook (a Gardener and Farm Bailiff) and Mary nee Skull. In 1891 he has an elder sister Susan and two younger brothers Gilbert aged 4yrs and Ernest aged 2 yrs, and the family are living in Hutton Park, Hutton.

By 1901 he is still living at home with his parents and he has 2 further brothers Stanley and Harold. Arthur is now employed as a carpenter's apprentice. In 1905 Marjorie, his daughter is born and in 1906 he marries Kitty Harrington and the following year his son, Harold, was born.

Shortly after his marriage he moves to Western Road, Billericay and joins the Great Bumstead Volunteer Fire Brigade. In 1911 his occupation is a Carpenter and Joiner, working for a Builders firm.

In 1911 Great Burstead Fire Brigade Competitions, he comes 3rd in the One Man Manual Drill and 3rd with Fireman H. Cole in the Two Men Manual Drill.

The following year at the ninth annual competition of the Great Bumstead Fire Brigade, he comes second in the One Man Manual, First in the Two Man Manual with Fireman W Cornish, First in the One Man Hydrant Drill, First in the Two Men Hose Cart Drill with Fireman Smith and second in the One Man Hose Cart Drill. Latter in the same year Arthur participates in the twentieth meeting of the Billericay Harriers and comes third in the 100 yards and 3rd in the 220 yards race.

In October 1913 he is a Honary Secretary of the Billericay Cricket Club when he organises a concert in aids of the funds of the Cricket Club. At the Fire Brigade competitions later in the year, Arthur comes Second in the One Man Manual Drill, Second with Engineer Pearmain in the Two Men Manual and First with Engineer Pearmain in the Two Man Hose Cart Drill.

With the outbreak of World War 1, there is no record of him enlisting in the Armed Services, but he appears to remain in the Fire Brigade.

In 1917, his mother dies and the following year, 1918, his wife Kitty dies.

After the War, Arthur is still in the Fire Brigade and in 1922 he participates in the Annual Competitions and comes First in the One Man Manual Drill, First in Two Men Manual Drill with Fireman W Youngman, Second in the One Man Hydrant Drill and First in the Four Men Escape Drill with Firemen W, Youngman, E Savill and S Davis.

In 1925 he had an accident on his motorcycle when his machine skidded near White Bridges, Great Burstead and he was thrown heavily. He was found unconscious by another motorist who took him to a house nearby and then conveyed to the surgery of Dr Shackleton, where his injuries were attended to. Mr Crook then returns to his home. Later in 1925 he is still in the Fire Brigade when he is involved in mock 'Rescue' using the Great Bumstead Fire Brigade's Motor Pump and Escape.

In June 1927 Arthur was sited as a co-respondent when Mr Justice Hall granted a Divorce Nisi in favour of William George Howe, formerly of Billericay, on the ground of adultery between his wife Bessie and the co-respondent. There was no defence. The co-respondent (Arthur), the petitioner

alleged became a lodger in his house and he discovered that Mrs Howe and Mr Crook were carrying on an 'intrigue' (Essex Newsman Sat 18th June 1927).

Arthur Eli Crook dies in Brentwood in November 1960.

Henry Walter Pearmain

Henry Waller Pearmain was born in 1867 to James Pearmain a shepherd and his wife Maria in Thornham, Norfolk. At the time of his birth he had three elder siblings, Emma, Donald and Ann. By 1871 he had another younger sibling John Charles who was three years his junior. For most of his younger life, although christened Henry Walter he was referred to as Walter.

By 1881 he had become a Shepherd Boy and his elder brother Donald was a game keeper. and the family are living at Burnham Road, Norfolk.

On 16th February 1896, he marries Elizabeth Rudd at the Parish Church of All saints, South Lynn Norfolk. At the time of his marriage he has become an Engine Fitter.

By 1901 he has reverted to his christened name of Henry W. and is living at 46 Melford Road, Sudbury and he has become an Engineer at the workhouse.

However by 1911 he has moved and is living in Great Burstead and is an Engineer at the Billericay Work house and has two children Evelyn aged 3 and Grace aged 2 both of whom born in Essex. Elizabeth has become a work house attendant and is looking after the elderly inmates By 1906. Henry has become An engineer of the Great Burstead Fire Brigade and participates in a number of events in the Fire brigade competitions obtaining a number of first place prizes.

In the Fire Brigade competitions of 1909 he comes first in the One Man Manual Drill, Second in the Two Man Hose Cart Drill with Fireman F Smith and 3rd in the Two Men Manual Drill with Fireman E. Saville. In the Four Man Wet Drill Engineer Pearmain's team comes first.

In 1912 he again participates in the competitions, this time coming fourth in the One Man Manual. 2nd in the Two Man Manual with Foreman Cole, second in the Two Man Hose Cart, and in The Four Man Wet Drill turn out and 3rd in the One Man Hose Cart.

It is obvious that Henry enjoys Whist as in 1925 he is present at the Women's Institute when they hold a Whist Drive and comes 2nd in the Gentlemen's section of the competition. In 1925 at the Christmas Institution concert Henry caused roars of laughter by his impersonation "Granny Dear"

He is still a member of the Brigade when he takes part in display in 1926, in which he constructs a fitting, enabling the Brigade's escape ladder to be utilised as a water tower.

In 1928 his daughters were involved in the Christmas function at the Billericay Poor Law Institution. In 1930 Henry again participates in the Women's Institute Whist Drive and comes first in the men's competition and he again takes part in 1932 when he again wins a prize.

It is not known when Henry left the Brigade nor when he left the Billericay workhouse. His date of death is also unknown.

John William Little

John was born in 1871 in Bulpham, Essex to John Little, an agricultural labourer and Beer House Keeper and his wife, Isabella nee Mott. At the time of his birth he has three elder siblings Ellen M, Arthur F and Annie E. The family also had four lodgers staying with them. By 1891 his father has become an Engine Driver of a Threshing Machine, and the family are living at a cottage on Bulpham Farm.

By 1901 John has married Mary Ann nee Springett and he is a Brewers Stoker. He is living in Victoria Road, Stanford le Hope and has two daughters, May and Millie H. Ten years later in 1911 he has moved to Great Burstead, Essex and is living in the High Street, Billericay. He has changed his occupation, and is now a Bootmaker and Repairer. It would appear that Millie has died, however Mary is still alive and he has two further daughters Alice May and Kathleen Marie and a son Harold William.

It is not known when he joins the Great Burstead Volunteer Fire Brigade, however in the Brigade's completions in 1911 he comes first, with Fireman F Smith in the 2 men manual competition which was organised by the Great Burstead Brigade. The following year 1912, with Second Officer Wheeler he comes third in the two man manual and third in the two man Hose Cart drill.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist, but in 1918 he was appealed for by the Armed services at a tribunal but because he is a Volunteer Fireman and a Special Constable he is given a sixth month conditional exemption. However because of the cessation of hostilities he is not required to enlist.

It is not known when he left the Brigade but he dies on 13th June 1948 whilst living at Western Road, Billericay, with probate going to his son Harold William Little, a technical salesman. His effects being to the value of £1725 10s 4d.

Halstead

Halstead Fire Brigade

The Volunteer Fire Brigade in Halstead, Essex, was formed by Edgar Tarry Adams in 1878. The rules stated that men attending a fire should receive 6d per hour payment.



Halstead Fire Brigade Circa 1900

Edgar Tarry Adams

Born in 1852 in Camberwell, London to Thomas and Mary, In 1911 he is living at The Cottage, Trinity Street, Halstead, Essex, and in 1880 was married to Helen nee Roberts, having a son Francis Norris and daughters Isobel Mary and Pauline.

On August 7th 1883 Edgar Adams is prosecuted for assaulting John Bragg. At this time he is a Brewer and Secretary of the Angling Society. The case against him is dismissed, however Bragg was also accused and found guilty of unlawfully attempting to take fish from the River Colne and was fined 1 shilling and costs of 4 shillings and 6 d It was obviously a dispute over fishing rights in which Bragg made a false allegation against Adams.

In 1887 in conjunction with his brother Col.B. Adams and other townsmen he formed the Halstead Volunteer Fire Brigade and in 1887 he is appointed Captain, a position he held until 1921.

At the outbreak of War he was appointed Naval Recruiting Officer for Halstead and District and over 1000 candidates for the Navy were passed before him. In connection with this role the Admiralty granted him a honorary commission of Lieutenant RNVR.

Edgar was also a very intelligent person and was a Fellow of the Astronomical Society and the Royal Metrological Society and a Fellow Commoner of Cambridge University, and for many years was the Hon. Chaplain to the Old Halstead Union House.

In 1893 Edgar is presented with a medal in recognition of his 14 years service at the annual dinner of the Brigade. In 1921 the Halstead Brigade resigned as a body as they felt hurt by comments made by the Urban Council who had resolved to terminate the arrangement thatched existed and appoint a new brigade as they felt that they wanted greater control over the engine and appliances. This meant that there was no local provision for dealing with fires until the new brigade was appointed.

Edgar died on the 26th July 1926 leaving probate to his widow Helen.

Frederick William Lucas Sudbury

Frederick William Lucas Sudbury was born in Waltham Green, Middlesex to Frank Lane Sudbury and Florence Louisa Sudbury.. The 1911 census shows that the family are living at 5 Bridge Street, Halstead and that his occupation was a Joiner and Carpenter and that he was single. He was at this time the eldest of 4, his siblings being 2 sisters, Edith and Dorothy Kate and a brother Harry Lake Sudbury. As well as being a Volunteer Fireman at Halstead and a member of the Essex Yeomanry, Frank was also a distinguished Cricketer and Football player.

In September 1914 he married Jessie Taylor Craig.

On the outbreak of war he was called up for service with the Household Cavalry, Essex Yeomanry Reserve Battalion and in 1915 he was serving at Hounslow Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow. He was a Sergeant Firearms instructor, instructing new recruits how to fire their weapons, his regimental number being 641.

On 25th June 1915, he was teaching his recruits to fire their weapons and in particular was instructing a Trooper Harris. He was lying about a yard in front of Trooper Harris and gave the order for Harris to fire. This would appear to have been a common way of examining the firing



Imperial War Museum

procedure as the photograph from the Imperial War Museum shows.

Unfortunately for Sergeant Sudbury, by some means a live cartridge had been placed with the four dummy cartridges in the clip in Harris's rifle. On the rifle being fired, the bullet hit Sergeant Sudbury under the eye and killed him instantly. In evidence given at the Coroner's Court held in Halstead, Major Tritton, Sergeant Sudbury's commanding officer, stated that there was no explanation as to how the live cartridge got in the ammunition clip and that it was a regulation that the instructor should have examined the clip and if Sergeant Sudbury had done so he would have seen the live cartridge.

The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental death from a gunshot wound to the head and found that neither Trooper Harris or the army were to blame for the death.

His funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church, and he was buried at Halstead cemetery.

His father Frank Lane Sudbury died on the 5th March 1917 and his brother Harry Lake who was a corporal in the 7th Middlesex



Frank L Sudbury, Harry Sudbury, Frederick Sudbury
Halstead Cemetery, Essex

Regiment, his regimental number being 204176, was killed in action on the 25th August 1917 in France.

Harlow

Arthur James Springham

Arthur James Springham was born in 1881 in High Wych to James, an agricultural labourer and Sarah Springham and had an elder brother William. At the time of his birth, the family lived at Cottage number 7, Allens Green, High Wych, Hertfordshire.

In January 1910 he marries Edith Ellen nee Wybrew and moves to Bury Road, Harlow, and shortly afterwards joins the Harlow Fire Brigade. His occupation at this time is a Postman.

On Wednesday 22nd June 1910, he is a member of the Harlow Fire Brigade who participate in the St John's Fete at Harlow, in which even though he has only been a member of the brigade for 6 months he wins two silver medals in the contests organised between different fire brigades.

In 1911 he has a daughter Dorris May, who is two months old at the time of the 1911 Census. At this time Arthur and his family are visiting his parents at Allens Green, High Wych, Hertfordshire, and the census form for Bury Road, Harlow indicates this by stating that 'Family Away' is put on the form when it is submitted.

After the outbreak of World War 1, Arthur enlists with the Essex Regiment at Harlow and is given the regimental number 30539. However he later transfers to the 1st Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment, his regimental number here being 33388. It would appear that for the duration of the war that his wife, Edith and daughter, have moved back to Edith's parents address in The Square, Ugley, Bishop's Stortford.

On the 4th August 1914, the first battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment was stationed at Mullingar as part of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Division and on the 16th August was mobilised for war and landed in France being engaged in various actions on the Western Front. In 1917, the Battalion was involved in various battles including ; The Battle of Vimy, The Attack on La Coulotte, The Third Battle of the Scarpe, The Capture of Oppy Wood, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, and The Second Battle of Passchendaele. However in December 1917 the Battalion was deployed to Italy to strengthen the Italian resistance after a recent disaster at the Battle of Caporetto and the Division was positioned along the River Piave and remained there until April 1918, when they returned to France.

In September 1918 the battalion was engaged in the Battle of Drocourt-Queant, and it would appear that during this battle, on the 2nd September 1918, two months before the end of the war that Arthur was killed in action. His final resting place is unknown, but he is mentioned on the war memorial at Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, Department du Pas-de-Calais France.

Frederick Ellis

Born in 1888 to Frederick (a domestic gardener) and Hannah nee Marshall. In 1911 he can be found living at Mulberry Green, Harlow Essex, at which time he is single and his occupation is a House Painter. He is eldest of 7 children, the others being Frank, Winifred, Edward, William, Ernest and John.

In 1912 he joins the Harlow Fire Brigade and on 30th January 1913 he marries Annie Louisa Bird at the Parish Church, Harlow.

On 9th December 1915 he is attested, at which time he is living at Old Road, Harlow. The following day he is posted to the Army Reserve. In May 1916 Captain Deards of the Harlow Brigade applies for an extension in order that he can remain in the Brigade, but this is refused.

On the 14th July he is mobilised and on the 15th July he is posted to the Middlesex Regiment, with a regimental number of G/27361. and is attached to the 31st Battalion. His medical rating is classed as B2 and he is restricted to home duties. On enlistment he is described as 27 years 8 months old with a chest measurement of 35 inches and has no distinctive marks.

On the 18th May 1917 he is transferred to the Labour Company with a regimental number of 27929 and on the 29th June 1917 is posted to that company where he serves for two years until

the 31st Jul 1919 when he is posted to the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) He is then transferred to "Z" class Army Reserve prior to his demobilisation on the 16th October 1919. He is shown as having a disability on discharge of "Neurasthermia" which is a psychological disorder characterised by chronic fatigue, weakness, loss of memory and generalised aches and pains.

He is at this time living at 2 Marbled Green, Harlow.

After the war he returns to the Brigade. In April 1931 Frederick receives his bronze long service and good conduct medal and bar for 17 years service, however in February 1932 Hannah, his mother, who was an old member of the Mother's Union dies at the age of 66 having suffered a long and painful illness, leaving 6 sons and one daughter. In 1937 he wins the 6 man trailer pump drill, together with his brother William who is a driver with the Harlow Fire Brigade. In 1942 he retires from Harlow Fire Service as a result of injury after 30 years service.

Frederick dies on the 3rd February 1963 with probate going to his widow Annie Louisa. At the time of his death he is living at 2 Mulberry Green, Harlow.

William Charles Francis

William Charles Francis was born in Harlow in 1889, the son of William Francis, saddler of High Street, Harlow, and Mary. He was one member of twins, the other being Ethel Marion Francis.

He attended local school and upon leaving, he followed his father into becoming a member of the Harlow Fire Brigade. Also whilst at Harlow he was a Wesleyan preacher and in 1912 he left Harlow and emigrated to Australia to do Religious work in the Australian bush. He spent 18 months at a Divinity student college before the war preparing for the Methodist Ministry and on the 15th September 1914 he volunteered for the Australian Expeditionary Force.

He is described on his enlistment form as being 5 ft 8ins in height, having a dark complexion and brown eyes with Black Hair.

He was posted to the 13th Australian Infantry Battalion (New South Wales) his regimental number being 85. On the 18th October 1914 he embarked for overseas duty in the Dardanelles, where on the 3rd May 1915 he was promoted to Corporal. On the same day he is awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the citation for the award reading

"On the 3rd May 1915 during operations near Kaba Tepe, for great bravery in removing wounded from trenches to Ettea dressing station over ground swept by machine gun fire"

Unfortunately, 7 days later on the 12th May, he himself, is seriously wounded by a gunshot wound to the right lung, which resulted in pleurisy. On the 5th August William is also mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette issue 2925. As a result of the gun shot wound, on the 21st December 1915 he is returned to Australia and on the 11th April 1916 he is discharged from the army as medically unfit.

He obviously returns to college to complete his training for the Methodist Ministry and on completion of his course, he reapplies for the army as a Methodist Chaplain and is successful in

obtaining a position as Captain Chaplain 4th Class and on the 24th August 1916 he embarks for overseas duty, returning to Australia on the 31st December 1916 and on the 2nd January 1917 his position as Chaplain is terminated as supernumerary.

On the 29th April 1918 he is re-appointed as Captain Chaplain 4th Class and on the 30th April embarks at Port Darwin arriving in Suez on 7th June 1918. Whilst on this posting in Egypt he succumbs to Malaria in Damascus.

On the 22 July 1919 he returns home to Australia and during the journey he suffers another Malaria attack.

On 30th October William attends a Medical Board where he is recommended for medical discharge as being permanently physically unfit, which is confirmed on the 31st October 1919 and he is discharged from the army on the 22nd November 1919.

Whilst in Egypt William was serving as Chaplain of the 12th regiment 4th Brigade Australian Light Horse.

In 1920 he marries Effie Estelle Perry in Burrowa, New South Wales and in 1922 he was living in the Newtown district of Sydney.

George William Harris

Born in 1882 to George E Harris (a rural postman) and Jane. He was to become the eldest of 4 in the family, his siblings being Arthur J, Alice B, and Herbert. In 1910 he marries Lucy and by the 1911 census he has a child Norman Ernest, and is living at 2 Hillside Terrace, Harlow, his occupation being a housepainter.

In 1912 he becomes a member of the Harlow Fire Brigade. At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist but remains a member of the Brigade and in 1915 he attends with other members of the brigade, the funeral of John Seymour who was a former foreman of the brigade.

In 1916 the Fire Brigade Captain applies for exemption of Frederick Ellis and George, which is refused, which means that he should have joined the armed services, however no record can be found of his enlistment. This does not mean that he did not enlist, as in the second World War many of the documents referring to enlistment in World War 1 were destroyed in an incendiary bomb attack on the records office in London.

There is no more mention of George during the wartime period, which is an indication that he did enlist and the next mention of him that can be found is in 1937 when he is still a fireman at Harlow and has taken part in competitions and then at the meal after the event he is presented with a silver bar to his long service medal after 25 years service with the brigade. On the 1st April 1938 he is present at the annual general meeting of the Harlow Brigade, which took place at the

Green Man Hotel and afterwards at the annual dinner in which he makes the toast to "The Guests". At this time he has become Foreman Fireman of the Brigade.

Percy John Tabor

Percy was born in Bishop Stortford in 1878 to Richard, a Coach Builder and Ellen Susannah nee May. At the time of his birth he had three elder siblings, Henry George, Alice Sophia and Ida Kate. By 1881 the family have moved to New Road, Harlow and the family have a lodger who is an employee of Richard, his father, and also have a 'live in' domestic servant, Annie Sophie Butler aged 15. In 1891, the family are still living New Road, although they no longer have a domestic servant. His elder brother has joined his father in the coach building business and the two elder sisters have become dressmakers, whilst Percy is still a scholar.

By 1901 his elder brother has left home, as has his sister Ida Kate, and Percy has become a Hot Water Engineer, and did not follow in his father's business

In 1903 he joins the Harlow Volunteer Fire Brigade, following his father, Richard who had been a member for 20 years and who is awarded a medal for 20 years service in July 1907. The following year in 1908 he marries Mary Potter in Epping, and three years later Percy can be found living with his wife and family in Potter Street, Harlow and his occupation is a gas and water fitter. He has a son Cyril and a daughter Mary.

1914 proved to be traumatic year for Percy as both his father and mother died. He did not enlist in the armed services at the outbreak of World War 1 but remained with the Fire Brigade in Harlow. In 1915 he attends the funeral of John Seymour, who was the foreman of the Harlow Fire Brigade and who had been a member for over 30 years.

By 1918 he has moved to 3 Victoria Villas, Harlow, where he can found living until 1930. In 1931 he is still an active member of the Brigade when he attends as second officer in charge at a fire at the back of Mr Allen's grocery stores in Potter Street, Harlow and the smartness of the turnout undoubtably saved a serious fire, with only little damage being done to the store shed. About this time he moves House to Bury Road, Harlow.

In 1931 Percy was presented with a silver long service and good conduct medal for 23 years service at the annual meeting and supper of the Harlow Fire Brigade which took place 27th March 1931 at the Victoria Hall, Harlow by the Chairman Mr Rowbottom of Potter Street. Also in the same year, Percy had the unfortunate opportunity to further his fire fighting experience when a chimney caught fire at his own residence and burned furiously for over three hours. Percy and his son Cyril, who had in 1926 become a member of the brigade, fought to quell the outbreak but without success and the brigade was eventually called. After a large amount of the brickwork of the chimney flu had been cut away, the fire was put out.

In 1936 Percy was presented with a bar to his silver medal for 25 years service and two years later he writes a letter resigning from the brigade after 35 years service and he was thanked for his excellent service.

He dies in 1943 at the age of 66yrs.

John Seymour

John was born in July 1860 to John Seymour, a Gardener, and his wife Harriet. He had an elder brother, William and the family lived in Hobbs Coop Road, Harlow. Between 1863 and 1871 his family have 5 daughters and 1 son. In 1871 the family are living in Harlow. Later the same year, his father, John, dies.

By 1881 John is a Hot water filter and he is living with his grandfather, also named John, who is a Farm Labourer. The following year he marries Eliza and later in the same year has a son Frederick John.

By 1885 he has become a member of the Harlow Volunteer Fire Brigade and in 1901 he is living at Bury Road Harlow and his occupation is a Gas and Water Filter

In 1905 at the Fire Brigade Competitions held in Harlow. he wins a cup for the smartest man and a silver medal for the best at! dance at Dnlls In tiny 1907 he received the very first Long Service Silver Medal ever presented for the period that he had been in the Volunteer fire Brigade.

In 1911 he is still living in Bury Road, Harlow and his occupation is a Gas and Water Fitter working for Messrs Cowlin and Son. He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War I, but remains in the Fri Brigade, eventually achieving the rank of Foreman.

In March 1915 at the age of 54 years and still a member of the brigade, he dies and at his funeral the Harlow Volunteer Fire Brigade are represented by Capt.Sam Deards, Lt. W. Francis and Firemen C. A. Deards, J. Deards , W. Collins, P Tabor and G. Harris.

Harwich

William Parson Tyrrell

William was born in 1877, the son of John James Tyrrell ,(who in 1930 is Harwich longest living resident at age of 97) and Emma and they lived at 17 Castlegate Street, Harwich. He had a brother Bert L.L. Tyrrell.

In 1906 William is a member of and plays for the United Lodge of the Buffalo Order and in 1912 is Blind Bandmaster of the Church Lads Brigade Band which led the muster of the National Reserve in Harwich and is a well known Blind Pianist. The 1911 census shows that William had been blind since the age of 7.

In 1919, there is a report in the Essex Newsman entitled "108 Air Raids" which is reproduced as follows:-

" During the war the Harwich Fire Brigade was called out on no fewer than 145 occasions and 108 air raid alarms. In recognition of their work, Alderman E Saunders and the Mayor

presented gold and silver medals to the members. Among the recipients was a blind fireman, Mr W.P. Tyrrell, who did good service at the Fire Station."

William continues to play the piano and can be found on several occasions playing for the old people in Harwich, the last mention being in 1934.

David Wills

Born in Walworth, London in 1869. His father Alfred was a book binder.

In 1895 he married Annie nee Ware at the Parish Church of Horley, in the county of Surrey and had seven children, Annie 15 years, Florence 13 years, David 12 years, (who later joins the Harwich fire brigade) Charles 9 years, Alfred 7 years, John 5 years, William 3 years.

By 1911 he had moved to 59 Church Street, Harwich and had become a member of the Fire Brigade and eventually became Captain of the Brigade. During World War 1 he also became a councillor at Harwich.

In August 1914 he is chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee when his Bakery office is burnt down. In 1915 he loses a brother at the front, who was member of the 1st Canadian Regiment.

He becomes Chief Ruler of the Essex District of the Rechabites (a jewish religious clan which supported temperance).

In 1923 he is captain of Harwich Fire Brigade and attends funeral of Lieutenant Frank Naylor at Colchester killed in a Fire.

He dies on 13th Jun 1940 at 59 Church Street, Harwich.

Harry Robert Salter

Harry was born in 1888 to Charles R Salter (a licensed Victualler) and Clara Shallcross nee Ward in Harwich, Essex. At this time the family are living at the Railway Tavern, George Street, Harwich.

He has one elder sister Emily aged 4 and one younger brother William Horace aged 10 months. His father dies in 1910 in Harwich.

In 1911, he is 23 years of age and is living at the Railway Tavern. He is single and his occupation is a Mineral Water Manufacturer working on his own account. His living with his widowed mother Clara who is a Licensed Victualler and has taken over the Licence of the Railway Tavern and his brother William Horace.

In 1913 he marries Jennie M. Inward in the Tendering District of Essex.

It is not known when he joins the Harwich Fire Brigade, but in 1917 the Military appeal for him at a tribunal, but he is given a conditional exemption, most probably because he is in charge of the Dovercourt section of the Harwich Fire Brigade. At this time he is employed as a cartage contractor.

After World War 1 in December 1920 at the age of 32yrs he and his wife Jennie Maria and his two children Winifred Sheila 4 yrs and Harry Roy 2 yrs embark on the Empress of France to emigrate to Montreal, Canada, leaving from Liverpool and arriving at St John's New Brunswick on the 23rd December 1920. His occupation is given on the ship's register of visitors as an engineer. Further examination of the Ocean Arrivals 1919-1924 form, reveal that it is his intention to join his brother William in Montreal and that he intends to remain permanently in Canada and states that his has no physical disabilities.

In 1953 he is living in the electoral district of Notre-Dame-de Gracê in Montreal but there is no record of his wife or children.

He died in 1959 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Hornchurch

History of Hornchurch Fire Brigade

Hornchurch parish vestry bought a fire-engine in 1830. The parish council, soon after its formation, took over from the vestry an old manual engine which had been housed at the Hornchurch Brewery, High Street, and removed it to the old Drill Hall, Billet Lane, and in 1898 a uniformed voluntary fire brigade was formed. A new engine was bought in 1900, and a fire station, built in Billet Lane, was opened in 1907. The brigade was eventually taken over by Hornchurch U.D.C., which in 1936 reorganised it on a full-time basis. Essex County Council, which took over the brigade after the Second World War, built a new station in North Street in 1963

Timothy Gibson Frost

Timothy Gibson Frost was born in 1887 to Charles, a Brewers Storeman and Sarah nee Linsell. who were married in Bethnal Green in 1868. He was the youngest of 6 children, the others being Lydia M, Charles W, Florence K, William G, and Amelia B., although he did have another sister Mary Ann who was born in 1872 but died in the same year. At the age of 2 his father dies, leaving Sarah to bring up the family., who takes occupation as a Laundress. In the 1891 census, the family is living in Church Sreet, Hornchurch. By 1901 the family have moved and are living at the Laundry, in Hornchurch High Street. By 1911 Sarah has disappeared from the census register,

probably by death, (although records of her death cannot be found) as have Lydia and Amelia. The rest of the family are still living in the High street and have taken a lodger Edward Pease who is Green Grocer. Charles who is now the head of the family , and he and Timothy's occupation is shown as House Painters, whilst William is an Iron Moulder and Florence is noted as the housekeeper.

Between 1901 and 1909, Timothy has become a Private in the H (Hornchurch)(Territorial) company of the 4th Essex Regiment, and attends the annual dinner at the Drill Hall, Hornchurch where he received a number of prizes for Prize Firing at Rainham Ranges, including being a member of the section which won the Hayes Cup.

In 1912, at the Hornchurch Carnival he wins first prize for the Donkey Turnout!

He has at some time also joined the Hornchurch Fire Brigade, as in 1913 he is a member of a contingent of the Brigade who attend the funeral of PC Joseph Watt, Essex Constabulary, who had sustained fatal injuries in Romford, whilst stopping a runaway horse.

After the outbreak of war he joins the 4th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, and because of his previous service with the he becomes a Serjeant with the regiment number of 200118.

At the outbreak of war the 4th Battalion was stationed at Brentwood and together with the 5th Battalion which was stationed at Chelmsford were both part of the Essex Brigade of the East Anglican Division and then moved to Norwich. In April 1915 the Division moved to Colchester and the formation became the 161st Brigade of the 54th Division and moved to St Albans. On the 21 July 1915 they embarked at Devonport to travel to the Mediterranean via Lemos, landing at Sulva Bay on the 12th August 1915 and were engaged in various actions against the Turkish Army. On the 4th December 1915, they were evacuated from Gallipoli to Murdos due to severe casualties from combat, disease and harsh weather. On the 17th December 1915 the Brigade was deployed to Alexandria and during 1916 they formed part of the Suez Canal Defence. In 1917 they were involved in the first battle of Gaza, which commenced on the 26th March 1917 and which saw the Egyptian Expeditionary Force suffer defeat at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in their attempt to invade Palestine. On the 16th April the second battle of Gaza starts, ending three days later in another victory for the Ottoman armies.

On the 31st September 1917 the Third Battle of Gaza commences and it is during this action the Timothy is killed on the 3rd November 1917, 4 days before the battle comes to an end when Allied troops enter the city and find it abandoned by the Ottoman Forces. Timothy is buried at the Gaza Cemetery. (*Forces War Records and World War 1914-1918 Day by Day*)

Unfortunately this is not the only tragedy which has affected the Frost Family, as his younger brother William, who has joined the 9th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, his regimental number being 21406, dies of wounds in the Western European Theatre in France and is buried at Boulogne sur Mer, Department du Pas-de-Calais, France.

Frederick Fry

Born in Hornchurch Essex in 1876 to George Fry, a carpenter, and Rebecca Mary nee Dockrill and by the age of 15 he was following his father's trade as he had become a carpenter. In 1891 he had 4 siblings, Ernest, Ada, Horace George and Bertie Robert.

In 1899 he, joined the Hornchurch fire Brigade which he served until his death in 1917.

In 1902 he married Lillian Jane Cox in Romford; Essex, and by 1911 they are living at 8 Parkside cottages, High street, Hornchurch and his occupation is still a carpenter. At this time he has one daughter Majorie who is 6 years of age.

His mother dies in May 1916 and in the same year, his brother Bertie Robert Fry who was a private (regimental number 3472) in the 4th battalion of the Essex Regiment died on the 4th April 1916.

Less than a year later, in March 1917 whilst working at Chatham he contracted blood poisoning and died a few days later. He was 41 years of age and left a widow and two children. He was buried with service honours, the procession being headed by Chief Officer E. G. Bratchell, J. P. and members of the Upminster Brigade were also present.

He was also survived by his father George, who died in 1926.

Horace George Fry

Horace was born in 1881 in Hornchurch, Essex to George a carpenter, and Rebecca Mary nee Dockerill and is a resident in the village of Hornchurch. By 1891 the family which consisted of two elder brothers, Ernest, a carpenter and Frederick also a carpenter, an elder sister Ada and a younger brother Bertie Robert. have moved to 1 Primrose Villas, Hornchurch. By 1901 The family have moved to Martin Street, Hornchurch and Horace's occupation is a carpenter

In 1903. Horace marries Emily Annie nee Wood and by 1911 he has moved to High Street, Hornchurch and has a daughter Edith Emily. He also has his brother-in-law Walter James Wood living with the family.

By 1905 he has joined the Hornchurch Volunteer Fire Brigade and attends with several other members of the brigade to a fire which had broken out in a tree standing in a meadow belonging to Mr. Williams adjacent to Billet Hill. Also in 1905 Horace attended a Fire at Derwent House, Herbert Road, Emmerson Park were a Horse was burnt to death.

By 1908 he. Is present with his brother Frederick at the annual dinner which was held at the White Hart Hotel.

In 1913 he attends the funeral of Police Constable Joseph Watt who sustained fatal injuries whilst performing the brave act of stopping a runaway horse.

On Wednesday 12 April 1916 he attends the funeral of his younger brother Bertie who was a private in the 3 /4th Essex Regiment (regimental number 3472) and was in camp when he was taken ill and moved to Aylesbury military Hospital where he died.

In 1918 Horace appealed against enlistment at a tribunal which was dismissed, however there is no record of his joining the armed services.

There is no record of his leaving the Fire Brigade, however, Horace died on 16th August 1963 at 57 Heath Park Road, Romford, his address at this time was 28 High Street, Hornchurch, Essex.

Frederick Harry Farrow

Frederick was born on 15 July 1866 in Walthamstow Essex to Frederick Edward Farrow, a Plumber and Sophia nee Meek. At the time of his birth, he had 5 elder siblings, Edward Henry Clara, Emma and Harry.

The year following his birth, his parents have another girl, Ellen Sophia and in 1870 a boy Frederick. In 1871 the family are living at 3 Whitepost Lane Hackney Wick, London. The family continues to grow In 1872 a sister Dora ,1875 Maud Mary, 1877 Florence and in 1881 Alice was born.

In 1894 Frederick is married to Hannah Florence nee Rumsey and he moves to 108 Pevensey Road Forest Gate, London and in 1895 he has a son Reginald Guy. At this time the family have moved to 4 New Road Ilford, Essex. Between 1898 and 1908, he has 4 Sons and a daughter. One of his son's James Charles only survives one year. By 1911 he is a home decorator and has moved 10 Fitzillan Avenue, Harold Wood, Essex

By 1912 he had joined the Hornchurch Fire Brigade as in April of that year he is involved in giving assistance in Harold Wood where he lived, in a fire involving a load of hay.

In 1913 he attends the funeral of P. C. Watt who received fatal injuries while stopping a runaway horse. Also in 1913 he has another son Harry (Tim) Farrow.

He does not appear to have enlisted during World War 1 and it is not known when he left the Fire Brigade.

On the 27 November 1941 he dies from Heart Disease and Bronchitis.

William John Mumford

William was born in 1865 in Little Warley, Essex, to William James Mumford and Mary, his wife, and in 1871 can be found living at Chase Cottage, Little Warley. he has one elder sister Mary Ann and two younger sisters Eveline Anne and Virginia Ellen. His father is the parish clerk of Little Warley. Ten years later, William has left school and become an agricultural labourer. He is still living with his family at Croft Cottage, Great Warley.

in 1891 William is still living with his parents and his occupation is a General Labourer. His father's occupation is shown in the census as a Farm Labourer and Church Clerk. the family are still living at Croft Cottage.

In 1895 his father, William James Mumford, was killed on the railway track when he was cut in half by a train engine. The body was identified by his son, William John Mumford, who is a fireman in the Hornchurch Volunteer Fire Brigade and the cause of his father's death was shown as accidental death. the inquest heard that William James had been employed at Lodge Farm, Little Warley by Mr G Alexander, until early October 1894 and had been the parish clerk at Little Warley. At the time of his death William was living with his son at 2 Nightingale Villas, Brentwood Road, Romford.

Later in July of the same year, 1895, William marries Eleanor Christina Hope at St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich. At the time of the wedding William has moved to, Ongar Villas, Brentwood Road, Romford and his occupation is an Inspector of Waterworks. By 1901 he and his wife have moved to the Water Works Office, in Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, and his brother-in-law Alfred B Hope, who is a Barman.

In 1906 William was a a fireman and was responsible for storage of a hose cart , 500 feet of hose and two scaling ladders, in the North West Ward of Hornchurch.

By 1911 William and his family have moved to 4 Malvern Road, Hornchurch, Romford. He is still a Water Company Inspector and does not have any children. Later in 1911, William is involved in an accident which was reported in the Chelmsford Chronicle as follows;-

" W.J. Mumford, an Inspector of the South Essex Water Company met with a serious accident at the foot of Upminster Hill on Saturday 7th July. He was cycling home when his bicycle skidded. He was thrown to the road and rendered unconscious. He received serious cuts about the face, nose, head and arms. He was driven to his home where he regained consciousness."

In 1913 he attends, together, with other Firemen at the funeral of, Police Constable Joseph Watt who had received fatal injuries whilst stopping a runaway horse.

In 1936 William died at the age of 71 years in the Romford District of Essex. He had been a member of the Hornchurch Volunteer Fire Brigade for 27 years before retiring from the Brigade and held the Volunteer Long Service Medal.

He left a widow but no other family, and when he died was living at 4 Malvern Road, Romford.

Henry (Harry) Alabaster

Henry was born in 1863 in Hornchurch, Essex to Walter G Alexander, a carpenter, and Louisa nee Patten. At the time of his birth he had six older siblings, William, Ann M, Walter J, Albert, Harriet and Arthur and by 1871, when the family was living at 16, The High Street, Hornchurch, he had a further three siblings, Frederick, Leonard and Thomas.

Little is known of his early life, however in the 1891 census he is married to Alice and they have a son Albert H. Henry is a Tailor and the family are living in the High Street, Hornchurch.

In 1899 joins the volunteer fire brigade in Hornchurch. In 1900 when his wife Alice dies, he has a further two children, Louisa and Rosa and by 1901, the family are living in a cottage in the High Street, Hornchurch, and Henry's elder sister Harriet has moved in as a housekeeper. Henry's occupation is still a tailor.

By 1904 Henry has become foreman of the Hornchurch Volunteer Fire Brigade and the following year attends a fire where a stable was destroyed and a horse was killed. In 1911 he is still living in the High Street, Hornchurch, one of his daughters has left home, leaving Albert, his son and Rosa, his other daughter, living at home.

In 1913, with the firemen, he represents the Hornchurch Fire Brigade at the funeral of P.C. Joseph Watts, who sustained fatal injuries while performing the brave act of stopping a runaway horse. When war breaks out in, 1914, he does not enlist, but remains in the fire brigade. After the war in 1920 he is presented with his long service medal, at which time he has been promoted to second officer of the Hornchurch Brigade.

In 1924, Henry was appointed captain of the Hornchurch Fire Brigade in place of E.G. Bratchall who had resigned his captaincy. He remains in his post for 15 years, receiving in 1934 bar to his long service medal. In 1937, when the brigade is reorganised, he resigns and all the firemen who were still serving in the Hornchurch Brigade were presented with gifts. Henry received a gold watch.

He dies in 1939 at the age of 77 years and the newspaper eulogy states that he had been a member of the Hornchurch Brigade for 40 years, the last 15 as captain. He was a member of one of the oldest families in the area and at the time of his death was living at 57 The High Street, Hornchurch.

Thomas Flucker

Thomas was born in Deptford, Greenwich, London in 1875 to Peter Thompson Flucker, a Boiler Maker and Iron Ship builder and his wife Ann nee Cavell. At the time of his birth he had 3 elder siblings, James, Peter and Ann and by 1881, he has a younger sister Lilian and the family are living at 15 Ordnance Place, Greenwich.

In 1899 he marries Kate Isabel Copley in Brentford and in 1902 he was appointed outdoor assistant to the Surveyor in the management of the sewage outfall works at a salary of £2 per week rising to £2 10 shillings. By 1911 he has three children, Maurice, Thomas and Edwin and his occupation is a Sewage Works Superintendent, working for the Romford Rural Council, and the family are living at 68 Craigdale Road, Romford.

In 1912 he joins the Hornchurch Volunteer Fire Brigade and in 1913 he attends with the Brigade, the funeral of P.C. Joseph Watts, who had sustained fatal injuries when stopping a runaway horse.

Thomas does not appear to have enlisted in the armed services at the out break of World War 1. In 1933 at a Coroner's hearing into the death of 3 men who were gassed in a sewage tank in the Upminster Outfall Works, a verdict of misadventure was given, but the jury added a rider to the verdict to the effect that Thomas Flucker (Manager of the Works) has been negligent in failing to give sufficient supervision in not enforcing the carrying out of the Surveyor's instructions. Later at a meeting of the Romford Rural District Council, the Surveyor and the Council express entire confidence in Mr Flucker.

Thomas remains in the Hornchurch Fire Brigade until 1937 when the reorganisation of the Hornchurch Fire Brigade takes place and receives a silver cigarette case. He replies to an expression of sincere appreciation of the excellent work that the Firemen had done by Mr Matthews J.P. who was Chairman of the Council and said that they (the Firemen) would always treasure the souvenirs with pride. They were proud of the fact that they were volunteers and had given their service with pleasure.

In 1938, Thomas who is now the Cleansing Superintendent employed by the Hornchurch Council and is living in Clydesdale Road, Romford, was summoned for causing injury to George J Wooding through negligence. It was said that Wooding was cycling past the defendant's stationary car when the defendant opened the door of his car and Wooding collided with it. The case was dismissed on payment of costs.

Thomas dies on the 18th July 1943 at the age of 69 at 1 Old Church Road, Romford with probate going to his widow, Kate Isabel Flucker.

Iford

History of Iford Fire Brigade

In 1871 the initial purchases of the Iford Fire Brigade which consisted of leather hoses for firefighting were made and 7 years later in 1884 a fire escape ladder was purchased. The appliances were kept at the Red Lion, Iford Hill.

The volunteer fire-brigade was formed in 1890 and in 1893 a Fire Station was built in Oakfield Road and the following year a steam fire engine, was purchased. Two sub Fire stations were opened in Horns Road and Cranbrook Road, and in 1905 a new central fire station was opened in Ley Street. Motorised Fire engines were purchased in 1914. By 1935 the Fire Brigade consisted of 26 men all full time. The following are some of the men who served in the earlier times of the Brigade.

Alfred Tingay

Born in 1870 at Whittington, Norfolk to Robert (Miller's labourer) and Harriet Eliza nee McCrow and baptised at Northwold, Norfolk and between 1871 and 1890 he is living at Northwold, Norfolk.

On the 15th December 1890 he married Sarah Ann Morris, at St James, Kennington Park Road, Lambeth, at which time he is living at 111. Lower Kennington Lane and his occupation is given as a labourer.

By 1901 he has become a Blacksmith and can be found living at Oakwood Road, Iford but by 1911, he is living at 7 Ward's Road West, Ley Street Iford. and has 5 daughters, Janet 13 yrs, Louisa 11yrs, Gladys May 8 yrs, Dorothy Helena 6yrs and Stella Katherine 1 yrs. He has also become a Fireman.

At the outbreak of war he does not enlist but remains in the Fire Brigade at Iford. During the war he became Second Officer at Iford and on 20th November 1920 he is awarded the medal of the

Order of the British Empire, the citation reading “ *For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty at fires at a munitions factory and a chemical works*”

He dies in Romford in the Rochford Registration District of Essex in 1956

William Tingay

Born in 1879 to Robert and Harriet Eliza nee McCrow at Whittington, Norfolk, younger brother of Alfred Tingay (mentioned above).

On 2nd April 1911 he marries Esther Parr in January 1911 at Romford in Essex and on the 2nd April the same year, he can be found living at 8 Aurelia Cottages, Ley Street, Ilford and his occupation s a fireman at Ilford Fire Station. He has a daughter Nellie May and one son Robert George who is also to become a fireman eventually.

He does not enlist at the outbreak of war but remains in the Fire Brigade and on the 20th November 1920 he is awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire, the citation reading “ *For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty at fires at a munitions factory and a chemical works*”

He dies on he 9th July 1950 at which time he is living in at 34 Glebelands Avenue Ilford. and probate is given to his son Robert George Tingay, a fireman.

James C. Tweeddale (Tweeddale)

James was born on 18 Nov 1891 in Shadwell, London to James, a fireman, and Emma. In 1901 he had two younger siblings Charles R. and Helen R.

At the age of 13 he was a member of Glengall Road School. (This school was opened in 1876 and in 1938 was renamed Glengall School. It was rebuilt in 1939 and was closed in 1968).

He joins the London Fire Brigade and by the age of 21yr and 9 months he has become a Motor Engineer at the London Fire Brigade workshops and is residing at 21 Cherry Garden St. Rotherhithe.

On the 1st Nov 1913 he enlists in the Territorial Force in the 14th (County of London) Battalion of the London Regiment, the London Scottish, for a period of 4 years service in the United kingdom. His regimental number is 1917

He receives his preliminary training between the 1st November 1913 and the 6th April 1914 and on the outbreak of World War I he was embodied on the 5th August 1914. He was based at Home between the 5 August 1914 and the 6th March 1915. On the 6th March 1915 he left the army and joined the Royal Naval Air service.

His first day was 9th March 1915 and his service number was F 3411. The first Ship upon which he served was HMS President Pembroke 3 and his rating was Air Mechanic grade 1.

On the 3rd April 1917 he was promoted to Leading Mechanic and on 1st July 1917 he was posted to HMS Daedalus. Where he stayed until 31st March 1918 when he transferred into the Royal Air Force.

(HMS Daedalus. Was based at Lee on Solent in Hampshire. It was established firstly as a Seaplane base and later became the main training establishment and administrative centre of the Fleet Air Arm, of the Royal Air Force which was formed on 1st April 1924.)

Upon transfer to the RAF he became a corporal Mechanic and his service number was 203411

After the war in 1919 he joined the Fire Brigade at Ilford as a Driver Mechanic and by 1932 he had graduated to the rank of Chief Officer. In 1939 he was in charge of 900 personnel and 86 pumps. He held several medals and a diploma for semis rendered to the science of Fire engineering awarded by the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Art of France. He was also awarded the King's Fire Service Medal.

In 1952 he has retired from the Fire Brigade and with his wife went to the United States to visit his daughter for 6 months, having been given a good send off and a special farewell dinner, and from all ranks, professional and part time, a gold watch, a grandmother clock, a barometer, a dressing case and a silver tray. He departed on the SS America.

It is believed he died in December 1973. at the age of 82 yrs. in Poole in Dorset.

John Farmery

John was born in 1873 in Louth in Lincolnshire.

However in 1881 when he was an inmate at the Union Workhouse, 1 Holmes Lane, Louth.

The Louth Union workhouse was built in 1837 In Holmes Lane at the north side of Louth. It was

intended to accommodate 350 inmates. The architect was George Gilbert Scott and the cost of construction was £6,000.

The Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser dated 29th September 1877 shows that a John Farley

aged 62yrs died at the Union House Louth on the 21st September. If this was John's father



Supt. J Farmery
Ilford Fire Brigade

the it shows that John had been an inmate for at least 4 years, if not longer.

By 1891 Town has moved to Thornhill in the county of York and is an agricultural Labourer. He is boarding with a Family named Weaver.

By 1901 he has moved to Sheffield and has become a police constable in Sheffield and is living at 15 Pickering Road, with a family named Gregory. Margaret A Gregory is a widow and head of the household. and has two daughters Jane Anne aged 16 and Beatrice aged 10.

Later in 1901 John marries Margaret Gregory. At the time of the wedding John is 28yrs and Margaret 38 yes.

It should be noted that Sheffield Police was a Police and Fire Brigade, and it may well be the case that John was involved in the Fire Brigade side of the Police Force. This proves to correct as he was for several years an engineer in the Brigade.

In 1904 he is in charge if the Barking Fire Brigade and in 1906 he resigns having been appointed Superintendent of the Port Sunlight Fire Brigade. By 1911 he has moved to 100 Greendale Road, Port Sunlight with Margaret and Beatrice.

In April 1911 the Derby Town Council approved the appointment of John Farmery, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, Port Sunlight, as Superintendent of the Borough Fire Brigade at a salary of £2. 5s per week with house, rent and water free.



Port Sunlight Fire Brigade

In June 1914 John had a narrow escape from serious injury. He was working a hose in one of the doorways at a fire when a large stone fell upon his arm, inflicting a severe wound. He was conveyed to Derby Infirmary for treatment. It was believed that the fire was the work of suffragettes.

In October 1914 John was one of 25 candidates and he was elected as Superintendent of Iford Fire Brigade at a salary of £3 per week with a House, light, fuel and Uniform, his salary rising to £3 5s after two years satisfactory service and his resignation from the Derby Brigade was accepted as from 12th November 1914

In 1917 he was appointed by the Home Secretary to a committee which was to draw up a scheme for the coordination in the measures to be taken by the London Fire Brigade and the Fire Brigade under the control of Local Authorities in the Metropolitan police district for dealing with fires caused by air raids, and to make any recommendations which appear to be desirable.

In 1925 he was elected president of the Professional Fire Brigades Association.

He retired in 1932 after 32yrs of Fire fighting service and he died in Ilford in June 1942.

Alfred Totts

Alfred was born in Buntingford, Hertfordshire in 1862 and was the illegitimate son of Susan Tott. In 1871 when Alfred was nine he is living at Hare Street, Great Hornead with his uncle and aunt George and Emma Lawrence. Also living at this address are this grandparents John and Sarah Tott, however there is no mention of his mother Susan. Ten years later he is still living with George and Emma and his occupation is an agricultural labourer.

In 1888 he marries Eliza Scarborough in the Romford District of Essex.

In 1894 he has joined the Ilford Fire Brigade and is living at the Fire Station House, Oakfield Road, Ilford During this year his first son Henry C was born Alfred remains at this address and in 1897 his second son Charles is born. In 1898 he moves to 38 Park Cottages, Ley Street, Ilford.

In 1901 he lets three rooms on the 1st floor to Arthur Clements and the rent is paid to Alfred. It is 1901 he and Eliza have another child Lillian, followed in 1902 by Stanley, 1903 by Dorothy and in 1904 by Walter. In 1905 he again moves house to 7 Havelock Road, Ilford, were he remains for two years, moving in 1907 to 369 Thorold Road, Ilford where he remains until at least 1915.

He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1 but remains in the Fire Brigade at Ilford.

In 1924 he retires as Senior Fireman from the Ilford Brigade and is presented with a large framed photograph of the Brigade.

In March 1942. At the age of 81 years he dies in the Romford Registration District of Essex.

Leigh on Sea

Sidney Frank Simpson

Sidney Frank Simpson was born in 1887 in Great Wakering to George Simpson, the land lord of the Exhibition Inn and Sarah Catherine (nee Peirson). He had three sisters, Mercy, Gertrude Emily, and Maud Alice and one brother Christopher Arthur.

In the census of 1891 and 1901 he is living with his family in the High Street at Great Wakering.

In 1910 he marries Elizabeth and moves to 8 West Street, Leigh-on-Sea. and his occupation is a Water Works Inspector. At about this time he joins the Leigh-on-Sea Fire Brigade .

After the out break of War, on the 21st May 1916 he joins the Royal Engineers as a Sapper, his regimental number being 551059 and is posted to the 227th Field Company, Royal Engineers and is sent to France on the 26th May 1917.

The 227th Field Company (known as the Stockton on Tees) served with 39th Division. Following initial training near home, the Division concentrated in the Winchester area in early August 1915 moving to the Marlborough Lines at Aldershot on the 28th of September where additional units joined and they moved to Witley in October, where the full compliment was reached.

The Division proceeded to France in late February 1916, concentrating near Blaringhem and on the 30th June 1916 they were in action in an attack near Richebourg l'Avoue with the Sussex battalions suffered heavy casualties. They were in action during the Battles of the Somme, including, the fighting on the Ancre, The Battle of Thiepval Ridge, The Battle of the Ancre heights and the capture of Schwaben Redoubt and Stuff Trench as well as The Battle of the Ancre. In 1917 they fought in The Battle of Pilkem Ridge, The Battle of Langemarck, which came to an end on the 18th August

1917. (www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/royalengineers227fldcoy-gw.php#sthash.97mBMNm.dpuf)

On the 21st August 1917 Sidney was in a working party which received a direct hit by a shell. He received severe wounds in his back, penetrating his stomach, buttocks and head. He died peacefully one hour after his admission to hospital.

He is buried at plot III row B26 at the Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West Flanders, Belgium.

At the time of his death, his address is given as 17 Chinchilla Road, South Church Road, Southend-on-Sea.

Alexander Julien Davisson

Alexander was born in 1868 to James H Davisson and Helena nee Hutchinson.

It is obvious that Alexander is interested in music, as there are a number of newspaper reports dating from 1894 through to 1907 in which he is mentioned as being the leader or bandmaster of the Leigh Orchestral Band or of a string band, including, attending the Church Bazaar in 1894, performing at the opening of Victoria Hall in 1894, performance at an entertainment given by the Board School girls in 1895, attendance at a Ball given by the Fire Brigade in 1903 when he is shown as the leader of the Leigh Orchestral Band and in 1907 he and his band provide the music at the opening of the Leigh Railway Bridge.

In 1888 he married Charlotte (Carlotta) Mary Hooper at South Acton and in 1891 they are living at 8 Pleasant Row, Prittlewell, Southend on Sea and he has one daughter Dorothy M.

In 1901 he is living at Southend on Sea, and is shown as being married but there is no mention of his family, except for two adopted sons, Charles and Lovell Way.

In 1911 he is shown as living at Alexander Villa, Glendale Gardens, Leigh on Sea and his occupation is a builder, living with his wife Mary, Daughter Violet, son Lionel and daughter Pearl and Charles and Lovell Way are shown as step sons. In the same year he is presented with the National Fire Brigades Union bronze medal for 10 years service.

He dies in 1946 at which time he is living at Alexander Villa, Woodleigh Avenue, Leigh on Sea. His affects of over £2000 go to his daughters Dorothy and Violet.

Benjamin Charles Palmer

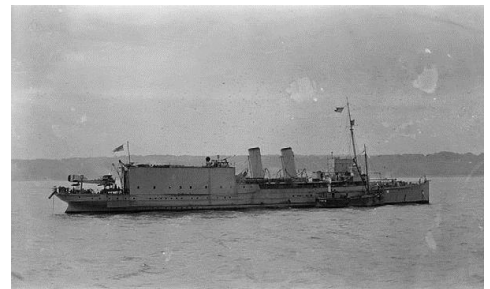
Born in Leigh in 1888 to Charles (a fisherman working on his own account) and Mary Ann. As it later transpires he is the eldest of 7, his siblings being James, Annie, Emmie, Ada, Mary Ann and Charles. His parents had two further children who died prior to the 1911 census.

By the 1911 Census, Charles, Benjamin's father has become a Fruitier and a Greengrocer, again working for himself and Benjamin has followed his father into the business. At some time Benjamin has become a member of the Leigh Fire Brigade.

He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1 and in August 1916 he appears before a local tribunal and is appealed for by his father as he is the manager of the family owned greengrocers and a member of Leigh Fire Brigade. His appeal is dismissed and he is given one month before he must enlist.

On 26th September 1916 Benjamin joins the Royal Navy with a service number of F 21175. His engagement period is for Hostilities only and he is described as being 5ft 6 ins in height, with brown hair and grey eyes and of fair complexion. He has no distinguishing tattoos or marks.

His first ship is HMS President II which is a training base where he is stationed between 17th November 1916 and 31st December 1916, and between the January 1917 and the 23rd August 1917 he is posted to HMS Engadine. HMS Engadine was a seaplane tender which served in the Royal Navy (RN) during World War I. Converted from the cross-Channel packet ship SS Engadine, she was initially fitted with temporary hangars for three seaplanes for aerial reconnaissance and bombing missions in the North Sea. She participated in the unsuccessful Cuxhaven Raid in late 1914 before she began a more thorough conversion in 1915 that increased her capacity to four aircraft. Engadine was transferred to the Battlecruiser Fleet in late 1915 and participated in the Battle of Jutland in 1916 when one of her aircraft flew the first heavier-than-air reconnaissance mission during a naval battle. She was transferred to the Mediterranean in 1918.(wikipedia).



HMS Engadine



HMS Crescent

Benjamin also served aboard HMS Crescent which was an old cruiser 1892, selected for depot ship duties in February 1916 and fitted out on 25 Mar 16. Submarine depot ship at Scapa Flow 1917 to August 1918. From August 1918-1919, Crescent was the depot ship for the 3rd Submarine Flotilla at Rosyth.

Benjamin's last day of service in the Navy was 31 March 1918. It is not known if he rejoined the Leigh Fire Brigade, but he lived until June 1982 when he died at the age of 94.

Harold Edwin Johnson

Harold was born in 1870 to Robert (a fisherman) and Martha in Leigh on sea, he had two elder siblings, Martha S. and Robert J.

In 1893 he married Honor Kathleen Turnnidge in the Rochford area of Essex and by the 1911 census he is living in Leigh on Sea and has four children, Harold, Kathleen, Reginald and Honor. and his occupation is how as a Bricklayer.

In 1901 he joins the Volunteer Fire Brigade and by 1907 he is captain of the Leigh Volunteer Fire Brigade. In 1908 he is nominated for Leigh Urban District Council. In 1911 he is awarded the bronze medal for 10 years service in the brigade.

At the outbreak of war he does not enlist but remains in the fire brigade. During the war he continues as Captain of the Brigade and is involved in some rescues as a result of bombing by Zeppelins' and Gothas' of Southend and Leigh Town Centres. On 20th November 1920 he is awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire with the citation reading "*For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty at fires caused by hostile aircraft and in the rescue of persons from buildings wrecked by hostile aircraft*".

He died on the 14 December 1940 whilst living at May Villas, 70 Elm Road, Leigh on Sea and his effects of £6894.14s go to his son Harold Edwin Johnson, a builder.

George Patrick

George was born in 1864 in Ufford, Suffolk to Jonathan Patrick, an innkeeper and Butcher and Lucy nee Manthop. In 1868 another brother Charles and in 1871 the family are still living Ufford, Suffolk.

In 1884 his father Jonathan dies. Four years later he marries Amelia Clover in Woodbridge Suffolk and a year later his son Charles Kenneth was born. The next year (1890) sees the birth of another son Francis John at Ipswich Suffolk.

In 1891 the family are living in Upper Street Ufford, but this year is to prove unfortunate for the family as a daughter Amelia is born and dies shortly after and also his wife Amelia dies, probably as a result of child birth.

In 1899 he is married to Mary Williams aged 38, a widow, at the Parish church in the parish of St Andrew, Stockwell and his occupation is given as a Bricklayer.

In 1901 he has moved to Leigh in Essex and is living at "Oakville", Cliff Road, Leigh and in 1911 he is living at 10 Victoria Road, Leigh on Sea, with Mary and has a domestic servant Kathleen Fraser 16yrs and a lodger Ernest Scilleto 22yrs.

It is not known when he joined the Leigh Fire Brigade, but it is known that he does not enlist in the Armed Services but in 1917 he is Station Officer of the Leigh Fire Brigade when his son Frank, who is a sergeant in the Royal Warwick and had been in the army for two years, is Killed in Action in France

Very little is known after this date regarding George and it has not been possible to determine when he died.

Leyton

George Edward Childs

George was born in 1878 to Thomas and Martha Childs and he was baptised on 27th October 1878.

In 1904 he joins the Leyton Fire Brigade as in July 1914 he is awarded his 10 year long service medal which was presented at the opening of the new fire station at Harrow Green

On the 3rd August 1905, he marries Elizabeth Mills and in 1911 he is living at 16 Junction Road

Leyton and his occupation is a stone masons Labourer.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist immediately but on 1st November 1915 he joins

the Royal Garrison Artillery and his regimental number is 293825.

When he enlists at

Stratford, he is 37 years of age 5ft 7ins in height and has a chest measurement when expanded of 37 ins and has a scar about 2 inches above his left eyebrow. He also had defective and decayed teeth requiring dental treatment. He was of good physical Development and weighed 147 lbs.

He was posted to 141st (East Ham) Heavy Battery.

On the 29th April 1916 he goes overseas with the B. E. F. embarking at Southampton and disembarking at Havre on 30th April 1916.

On 24th August 1916 he is admitted to Hospital in the field, with a contusion of his left foot and on 30 November 1916 he is discharged to duty.

On An 6th July 1917 he is given leave to the UK with the Royal Artillery, returning to France on the 19th July 1917

A year later in August 1918 he is admitted to Hospital with fever and a month later he joins the base depot. On 17th April 1919 he is issued with his protection certificate and certificate of identity.

He is awarded the Victory medal and the British War Medal.

After the war it is not known if he rejoins the Leyton Fire Brigade.



Edmund Matticott Hall
Chief Officer 1919 Leyton Fire Brigade
(ancestry.co.uk 2012)

Edmund Matticott Hall

Edmund was born in 1867 in Leytonstone, Essex to Matthew Hall, a cooper, and Annie nee Matticott. Edmund was christened on 22nd October 1867. He had five elder siblings still living, Mary Ann, Frederick, Louisa, Septimus and Ida. Two siblings who were twins were born in 1864, Harriet and Octavius, but unfortunately they both died the same year.

By 1871 at the age of 3 Edmund is an inmate of the West Ham Union Workhouse. His father, Matthew is an inmate of a workhouse in Tynemouth, Northumberland, but there does appear to be a record for his mother Annie that can be found from this year. In 1879, his father Matthew dies in India.

Ten years later in 1881, at the age of 13 Edmund can be found living, as a lodger, at 5 Union Road, Leyton with a family called Cook and he is a scholar.

The census of 1891 shows Edmund as having returned to the West Ham Union Workhouse only this time as an officer of the workhouse, his job title being a Master's Clerk. His mother Annie is also shown as working at the workhouse as an assistant matron. The following year, 1892, he joins the Leyton Volunteer Fire Brigade. In June 1896 he marries Marie Ann Fox in Doncaster, Yorkshire, and the following month on the 24th July 1896 his son Edmund Pearsall Hall is born in Doncaster. Three years later his son, Cyril Ruxton Hall, is born in West Ham and in April 1901 his son Lewis is born. At this time he is living at 5 Calderon Road, Leyton and his occupation is a Registrar of Births and Deaths. Over the next ten years he has 4 more children, Harry, Annie, Frederick and Percy, and by 1911 he has moved to 43 Union Road, Leytonstone and he is still a Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Edmund is an active man in the community and in 1911 he is president of Leyton Allotment Holders Society. He is also a member of the Leyton Borough Council and a Justice of the Peace. In 1913 he has become Chairman of the Council, when he attends the Railway men's Fete in Oliver Road, Leyton. In total he served on the Council for 23 years.

He does not enlist at the outbreak of World War 1 but remains an active member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. In 1915 his nephew Frederick William Hall of the 8th Canadian Battalion is awarded the Victoria Cross for Valour when he was killed whilst recovering a wounded man to bring him back to the lines.

In 1919 Edmund becomes Chief Officer of the Leyton Volunteer Fire Brigade and remains in this position until 1942 when he retires.

In 1937 he has become Chairman of the Eastern District of the National Fire Brigade Association. Edmund lives at 43 Union Street, Leyton until his death on the 20th February 1943, with probate going to his widow Martha.

Horatio Miller

Horatio was born in 1852 in Tottenham, Middlesex to Arthur, a Grocer and Master Cheesemonger and Elizabeth. At the time of his birth he had three elder siblings Arthur M, William M, and Elizabeth and the family are living in the High Road, Tottenham. By 1861 the family have increased in size and Horatio has a further 3 siblings Ada M, Emily A, and Adeline A and the family has two servants, Fanny Wilkins and Eliza Atkins.

Ten years later, in 1871, the family are still living in the High Road, Tottenham and his father has become a Tea Dealer as has Horatio. On 25th August 1874 he marries Emily Maria Peacock in the Church of the Holy Trinity in the Parish of Tottenham, Middlesex and he moves to Leyton, Essex.

In 1876 he joins the Leyton Volunteer Fire Brigade, and In 1881 he is living in Vicarage Road, Leyton at which time his occupation is shown as a Commercial Traveller, and he has two children, Horatio, aged 5yrs and Arthur aged 2yrs

Shortly after this time he again changes his job and becomes a Sanitary Inspector for the Council. By 1883 he helps to reorganise the Volunteer Brigade and he has become the Captain of the Brigade. In the same year he gives evidence in court in a case of arson involving the setting fire to the house of one of the prisoners, a William Webster at 4 Commercial Place, Leyton Road, Leyton.

In 1892 he was formally appointed Inspector of Nuisances at by the Leyton Local Board at a salary of £120.00 per annum. In December 1892 when he receives a new Merryweather steam fire engine with much pomp and which was escorted in procession through the principle thoroughfares with the Leyton Military Band leading the way and after some suitable words, his wife, Emily, christens the engine by breaking a bottle of champagne over the engine. Also In 1892 he attends the International Congress of Fire Brigades, which was attended by 8,000 firemen, held at Le Harve, France and the Leyton and Leytonstone Volunteer Brigades of which he was in charge, won a number of prizes.

Sometime between 1892 and 1901 he moves house to Kensal Lodge, Church Road, Leyton. In 1896 he is awarded a Long service medal for 20 years service b the National Fire Brigade Union. and in 1901 he has become Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Leyton Council. On a personal front, he has two further children, Agnes and Lillian.

In 1904 his wife Emily dies and the funeral took place at Abney Park Cemetery after a service held at Leyton Parish Church, which was conducted by the Rev.M.Miller of Bicester, their brother of Horatio assisted by the Rev. J.T.Inskip, Vicar of Leyton. Fire Brigades from all parts of England



Captain Horatio Miller

(Photo shared by Timothy Miller on ancestry.co.uk)

forwarded letters and resolutions of condolence to Capt. Miller, who is held in much respect in the Fire Brigade world.

In 1906 Capt. Miller again visits France, this time Paris in charge of representatives of the Leyton and Leytonstone Fire Brigades who take part in Brigade competitions and Horace is presented to the French President.

In 1907 three years after the death of his first wife Emily, he marries Elizabeth Earle in Brighton and in 1911 he is still living at Kensal Lodge and has two young sons, Albert Victor who is 2yrs of age and Charles Herbert who is 9 weeks of age. He also has a domestic servant.

In the same year his name is submitted for the Kings medal for Fire Brigade Services, his supporters being Sir John Simon M.P. and Col. Lockwood M.P.

In 1914 Lilian, his younger daughter marries Frederick Haywood Graves at Leyton Parish Church. He did not enlist in the armed services in World War One because of age but remained active in the Brigade.

On the 7th January 1919 Horatio dies at Whipps Cross Infirmary, Leytonstone and he was buried on Monday 12th January 1919. His funeral was largely attended. The Chelmsford Chronicle reports his death in the paper and stated *"the work he rendered to the district was of a high character. The Leyton Volunteer Brigade soon won a reputation for smartness and efficiency and gained fame outside their county and even abroad. On several occasions they visited France and Belgium and returned home with honours. Captain Miller was Chairman of both the National Fire Brigade Union and the Private Fire Brigade Union. In connection with he it's named organisation he established the Death Benefit Fund."*

The funeral was attended by a number of fire brigades and also the band of J Division of the Police. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack and bearing the deceased's helmet, was borne into the church by seven firemen. The internment took place at Abney Park Cemetery.

Horatio's helmet was later presented to his wife.

Leytonstone

Charles Edward Childs Fireman. Leytonstone

Born in 1888 to Edward Childs (a labourer) and Elizabeth, in Woodford, Essex.

By 1901 he is living with his family which now consists of his parents and a brother Frederick and a sister, Emily, in Leyton. By 1911 the family has grown by another sister (Elsey) and a brother (Joseph) and is living at 34, Carlton Road, Leytonstone, and Charles is shown as a Shop assistant.

Between 1911 and the outbreak of World War 1, Charles joins the Leytonstone Fire Brigade.

At the outbreak of War he does not enlist immediately and in February 1915 he attends a house fire with the Leyton Brigade in Newport Road, Leyton, and with Fireman Dixon he enters the premises and despite having great difficulty in entering one of the rooms he and Fireman Dixon eventually succeed and find the reason they could not get through the door was that there was a deceased young child lying immediately behind the door. They continue to search the room on hands and knees and eventually find another young child deceased. The Coroners Officer P.C. Newton told the Coroner's Court at a later inquest that both bodies were unrecognisable.

On 2nd December 1915, he attested and on the 3rd December is posted to the Army Reserve. On 18th December 1916, whilst living at 7 Lancaster Road, Leytonstone, he joins the Army Service Corps (number 2983) and is posted to the Expeditionary Force Canteen Section (number a/257244). On joining the Army he is described as being 6ft 1ins with a 37ins chest ,a mole on his lower abdomen and a small scar on his chest.

It is interesting to note that he was not paid by the Army, but by the Expeditionary Forces Canteen Organisation and he was not entitled to any payment whatsoever from Army Funds for himself, relatives or dependants, or any gratuity on enlistment or discharge, except in the case of disablement or death.

On the 27/11/1917 Charles was travelling in a Lorry E.F.C 400 proceeding from Peponne to Amiens, when the steering gear went wrong and the Lorry swerved to the near side and fell down a bank overturning as it went. Charles received a fractured 3rd Cervical Vertebrae which proved fatal.

At the end of the War he was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Loughton

Henry Edward Warren

Henry was born in 1874 to Edward Henry Warren, a Gardener, and his wife Ann nee Wadmore. He was the first born of the family, which in 1881 was living at 2 Free's Cottages, Loughton. By this time Henry had three younger sisters, Kitty Elizabeth, Maud Mary and Florence Ann, the latter two being twins.

Ten years later in 1891 he has a further three siblings, Sarah A, William J, and Beatrice A. Henry has become a painter and Edward, his father has changed his occupation to a Cab Driver and the family are living in Smarts Lane, Loughton.

On 13th July 1893 Henry marries Sarah Wicks at St Mark's Church, Bow, London and in 1901 Henry and Sarah can be found living in Smarts Lane, and have two children, Florence and Cissie. Henry's occupation is now a bricklayer. Later in the same year Henry joins the Loughton Volunteer Fire Brigade in which he remains a member for 30 years.

In 1911 he and his family are living at 9 Beech Terrace, Smarts Lane, Loughton.

At the outbreak of World War 1, Henry does not enlist but remains a member of the Fire Brigade.

Henry dies at the age of 57 in Loughton, where he was born. Past and present members of the Fire Brigade, with Captain Heath and Ex Captain Jeffrey, mustered with a full force of men and with the motor fire engine and attended the funeral at St Mary's Church where the first part of the service was held and at the cemetery where Henry was buried, forming a guard of honour, and the fire engine bore the large number of floral tributes.

Maldon



James Pannifer

James Pannifer was born in Snape, Suffolk in 1858 and at the age of 11 moved to Maldon, Essex.

In 1881 he is living with his wife's family, the Joslin's, in Hall Road Terrace, Heybridge, but the census shows that his wife Emma is not present at the time the census was taken.

By the 1901 census, they have moved into their own house in Tenterfield Road, Maldon and at this time his occupation is a Brewer's engineer.



James Pannifer c1890

He moves sometime during the next 10 years and in the census of 1911, he is living at 9 Queens Street, Maldon with Emma, his wife, daughter Ethel aged 23, son Albert aged 20 and daughters, Florence aged 16 and Helen aged 14yrs. In 1925, Helen marries William Barker Searles, whose parents live at Gardfields Lodge, Hatfield Peverell.

Research at the Essex Fire museum shows that James has already joined the Maldon Fire Brigade in 1888, as in 1906, he is an Engineer with the Maldon Brigade, when he attends a large fire at Gilbrooks Farm, Totham, which is the first time that Maldon's new fire engine is used. Also in 1906, whilst an Engineer he is awarded an 18 years service medal and one bar.

In 1909 James has become sub Captain of the Maldon Fire Brigade and in 1914 becomes the Brigade's captain. Because of his age he does not enlist in the armed services but continues in the Fire Brigade until May 1919, when at the age of 64 he resigns as Captain of the Brigade.

He remains in Maldon after his retirement and by 1938 has moved to 3 Beeleigh Road, Maldon where at the age of 80 years he dies. His eulogy in the Chelmsford Chronicle on Friday 25th March 1938, indicates that for a time he was employed by Messrs E.H. Bentall and Co. and the Maldon Ironworks Company, until he took employment as an engineer at Grays Brewery situated in Gate Street, as an engineer, retiring after nearly fifty years service. His wife Emma had died 17 years previously in 1921. Present at his funeral, as well as his family, there was Mr W.H.Gray and employees of the Maldon Brewery, who sent floral tributes. The Reverend J.A. Halfpenny officiated.

Robert Charles Reeve

Robert Charles Reeve was born on the 23rd December 1881 in Lavenham Suffolk.

By 1911 he had moved to Maldon Essex and can be found living at 6 Victoria Road, Maldon. He was married to Annie Lucy nee Sherling, whom he married in 1906 and had one daughter Ivy Cissie, he was later to have at least one son Robert James.

In 1907 he joined the Maldon Volunteer Fire Brigade, as in 1932, he is awarded a 25 years long service medal. In 1911 his occupation is shown in the census of that year as a "whitesmith" (more commonly known as a tin smith).

At the outbreak of World War One he doesn't enlist immediately, as October 1916 he is given a 2 month exemption from the services. However in December of 1916 he enlists in the Royal Navy, his number being F24476 as an Air Mechanic and is posted to initially HMS President II and then to HMS Daedalus which was a Royal Navy Air Station at Lee-on-Solent. Upon joining the Navy he is described as 5ft 4 ins in height, with a chest measurement of 34 ins. He has light brown hair, Brown Eyes and a fair complexion. At the time of joining his occupation is given as a plumber.

On 1st April 1917, with the formation of the Royal Air Force, he is transferred to that service from the RNAS. At the end of the war he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the war he returns to Maldon and continues being a member of the Maldon Fire Brigade, becoming the Brigade's engineer in 1919, replacing Engineer Flack, (who became the Brigade's Captain upon the resignation of Captain Pannifer) and eventually by 1932 becoming the Brigade's sub captain.

In 1947 he was offering for sale a Morris Minor light Van and his address at this time was 93 Wantz Road, Maldon.

Robert Charles died on 25th February 1961 at Primrose Gates, the Bower, London, his home address at this time being 1C Wantz Road, Maldon, the executor of his will being, Robert James Reeve, plumber and builders merchant.

William Thomas Flack

William Thomas Flack was born in 1874 to Thomas William Flack, a Wheelwright and Carpenter and Elizabeth nee Stammers.

In 1891, the family was living at 164 Wantz Road, Maldon and at this time William's occupation is a steam saw bench worker.

By 1896 he is a member of the Maldon Volunteer Fire Brigade, as in that year, at the Fire Brigade Supper and presentations he presents Captain Hawkes with a handsome silver mounted pipe in a case in slight recognition of the interest he has taken in his men as a brigade for years past and later with Firemen Hedgecock, Stammers and Rayment provides singing entertainment to the group.

On the 20th September 1897 at St Luke's Church, West Kilburn, Westminster, at the age of 23, William marries Minnie Anderson, the daughter of Frank Anderson, an engineer, who will later become a councillor in Maldon. At this time his occupation is a Wheelwright. In 1901 he and his family can be found living at 20 Causeway, Maldon. He has by this time, a son Terance who is 3. By 1911 he is living at 44 Market Hill, his occupation now being given as a sawyer (Mill) and he has another son William Anderson. Examination of the Census shows that he and Minnie have had another child who has died.

He does not appear to have enlisted during World War 1 but remains with the Maldon Fire Brigade.

In 1928 tragedy again affects him in that his wife Minnie dies after a long illness of 5 years, the last 12 months of which she had been bedridden. Minnie had been a draper of some repute and had had a drapers business in Market Street, Maldon. At the time her death the family were living at 70 Causeway, Maldon.

By 1932 William has become Captain of the Fire Brigade and in the same year he remarries to Ethel R Hatley in Maldon.

He resigns from the Brigade in 1942 and 20th September of that year he dies. His funeral is attended by his widow and his two sons, together with other notables from the area. The administration of his will of in excess of £5,400 is given to his sons Terance Frederick who is a wood working machinist and William Anderson Flack who is a resident engineer Clerk of Works. The probate is executed in Llandudno, Wales.

Arthur William Smith

Arthur William Smith was born in Maldon in 1894 to Arthur George Smith, a builder and his wife Kate nee Tysoe. He had younger two siblings, Alfred Leslie and Ivy Katherine.

In 1901 the family was living at 41 Mount Pleasant, Maldon, However by 1911, he is living at 17 Spital Road, Maldon and his occupation was a Carpenter (journeyman) and was working for his father. Examination of the 1911 census shows that he had another sibling whom had died.

In 1914 he joined the Maldon Volunteer Fire Brigade, as in 1932 he receives a long service medal for 18 years service. At the outbreak of World War 1, he joins the 1st Life Guards, his regimental number being 3528. and posted to Hyde Park Barracks on the 13th November 1914.

On enlistment he is described as being 5ft 11ins in height and weighing 152 lbs., with a chest measurement when expanded of 37 1/2 inches. He has blue eyes, light brown hair, a scar on his forehead and a mole on the left side of his abdomen. On joining the Life Guards, he requires a reference which is supplied by a Mr Henry G Leech, wholesale and retail ironmonger, 43 High Street, Maldon.

He remains at home barracks until 23rd July 1916, when he is posted to the expeditionary force in France. On the 19th March 1918 he received a gun shot wound to his leg and on the 25th March 1918 was posted Home where he remained until demobilisation on 18th February 1919.

After the War he returned to the Maldon Fire Brigade and on 15th November 1930 he married Agnes Harris at the Primitive Methodist Church, Maldon, with his brother Alfred Leslie being the best man. The reception was held at the New Villa Hall.

In 1932 he receives the long service medal mentioned above, and in 1939 he receives 25 years service silver bar and medal for his service in the Brigade. In 1942 he resigns from the Brigade after a disagreement with the Chief Officer.

Arthur died on the 3rd November 1955 at the General Hospital, Southend and Administration was given to his widow Agnes, his effects being £3874 0s 3d. His address at the time of his death was 7 Spital Road, Maldon.

Frederick John Wendholt

Frederick was born in 1892 in Rayleigh to Julius a baker/confectioner and Harriet nee Cook He had nine siblings, ranging in age from 20 years to 8 months

In 1903 his father, Julius, dies and by 1911 he has moved with his family to 43 Victoria Road Maldon and his occupation is a Pastry Cook Assistant.

In 1909 Frederick enlists in the Royal Field Artillery Army Reserve, Special Reserve.

The Special Reserve was composed of men with no prior military Senna who had made themselves liable for Service with the regular army in the event of mobilisation. While the exact conditions of service varied most Special Reservists. underwent several months of full time training at the beginning of their enlistments. This training was often identical to that relieved by recruits who had enlisted for several years of full time duty.

The Royal field Artillery had "reserve batteries" for the training of special Reservists and 'depots' for the training of men who had engaged for three or more years of fun time duty.

On joining his height was 5ft 7ins and he weighed 126 lbs, He had blue eyes and brown hair. He also had a mole in the centre of his chest and on his left shoulder and a scar on his right elbow.

Frederick completed a 6 Months drill course on 5 November 1909

and in 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1913 he attended 2 week Annual Training camps.

Also during this time he joined the Maldon Volunteer Fire Brigade.

At the outbreak of Word War I, he was mobilised on 5 August 1914 and was posted to 4th Divisional Ammunition Column.

On 22 August 1914 he was part of the British Expeditionary Force that went to France and remained there until 29 April 1916 when he returned home and was discharged on the 9th May 1916

On the 2nd January 1916 he married Harriet Louise Saville of 113 High Street, at St Mary's Church, Maldon.

After the war he is an active member of the British Legion in Maldon, participating In many events over the years.

He returns to the Fire Brigade, however in 1934 at 42 years of age he dies in Maldon, having been ill for some considerable time following operations. His wife pre-deceased him by 4 years and he left a young son Frederick.



William George Sayers.

William was born in 1878 to David J. Sayers. a Harness Maker and Ann Sayers In Maldon, Essex. At the time of his birth he had 3 elder siblings, Samuel Thomas, Rosa Ellen and Annie and within a year of his birth he had a younger sister Ada. Whilst christened William George, he often referred to as George or George William. By 1881 he and the family are living in King Street, Maldon.

In 1884 his father David James Sayers dies leaving the family as mentioned above together with two further siblings Alfred F and Jane E.

By 1891 the family are living at 84 Spital Road, Maldon. His mother Ann has become a charwoman and William, at the age of 12, has become an errand boy. Rose has become a servant to Alfred W. Cross, a Corn Merchant living at 4 Silver Street, Maldon.

By 1901 George is still living at home with his mother Ann and Ada and Alfred. George has become a painter and the family have moved to 62 Spital Road, Maldon. The following year he marries Faith Clear at Maldon.

By 1911 he is living at 62 Spital Road and has two sons Victor and Stanley. and one daughter Olive. He has become a plumber journeyman. His mother Ann has moved with Ada, who is a general domestic to 19 Tenterfield Road, Maldon.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist but In 1917 he joins the Maldon Fire Brigade. He remains in the Brigade and in 1932 receives a medal for 15 year service.

In 1934 he writes to the Maldon Town council resigning from the Brigade for reasons of health. Councillor Tydeman JP. said they greatly regretted this. Fireman Sayers had been a faithful, consistent and useful member. He proposed a letter thanking him for his services. Alderman H. Granger seconded this and the Mayor said Foreman Sayers had served faithfully and well for 18 years. The resolution was carried.

George remained in Maldon and died there in December 1948.

Rayleigh

Herbert George Thomas

Herbert was born in 1890 in Marylebone, London to George John William Thomas and Annie Agnes nee Napier. At the time of his birth his father's occupation is a carman and the family are living at 30 Little North Street, Marylebone.

On 20th June 1915 Herbert, whose profession is a Manager in a Cinema and is living in Leighton Buzzard marries Caroline Matilda Napier of 116 Cambridge Road, Kilburn and the wedding takes place at the parish church of St John the Evangelist, Kilburn. Herbert's father is now a manager in advertising.

In 1916, his daughter, Ivy Caroline Annie, is born and a year later Florence Maud is born.

Herbert does not enlist in the Army but there are records which indicate that Herbert George Thomas was an air mechanic 3rd class of the Royal Air Force with the regimental number 87888. He was attached to the 7th Air Park, which served in Italy and prior to 1st April 1918, this would have been part of the Royal Flying Corps. On 24th September 1918 he was admitted to Hospital with influenza and was discharged back to duty on 1st October 1918 having been under treatment for 8 days.

On the 20th March 1920, his son Leonard Herbert George is born and 4 years later on 14th February 1924 another son Kenneth is born. At this time the family are living in Rayleigh, Essex.

It is shortly after this time that it is believed that Herbert wins the Rayleigh Fire Brigade.

There does not appear to be any reference to Herbert until 1938 when his eldest daughter Ivy is married to William Edward George Pickup, who was secretary of the Fire Brigade. The Fire Brigade conveyed the Bride and Groom on the fire engine and attended the subsequent celebrations at the Brides's home 'Avalar' Eastwood Road, Rayleigh. The Brigade pulled the fire engine by ropes and the Bridegroom was at the wheel of the engine. As the brigade was about to leave the celebrations they were called to a fire, a burnt out car, and the brides father H.G.Thomas was in charge.

In December 1938, his other daughter Florence, celebrates her coming of age party at her parents house, 'Avalar' At the end of the party, a gift from the brilliantly lit Christmas Tree was presented to each guest.

In August 1939, Herbert, in his official role of Chief Fire Officer, attend the funeral of Councillor Hart in Rayleigh.

In December 1939, his daughter Florence is married to P.O. Archibald Ernest Reynolds in North Merchiston Church, Edinburgh.

On the 2nd of January 1940 Herbert writes a letter which is somewhat critical of certain reactions of people to a Fire Scheme approved by the Home Officer, who, it would appear have inferred that the work and expenses incurred as a result of the Scheme seem unnecessary and he suggest that such remarks convey wrong impression to the public. He does not specify who these people are but a short time later, the council terminate his position as Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.

On 20th June 1940 he celebrates his silver wedding at his house.

He dies in 1976 in Rayleigh in Essex, two years after his son Kenneth who died in Chelmsford.

Harry Smith

Born in 1881 in Rayleigh to Henry Smith (a builder) and Mary Ann Smith. In 1901 he is a plumber living with his parents in the High Street, Rayleigh and is the eldest of 5, his siblings being James, William, Ethel and Lewis Friday.

In 1904 he marries Daisy Florence Cannon in Rochford and in 1911 is living at Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, his occupation being a plumber and use decorator. He has a son Frederick Harold and a daughter Millicent May.

At the outbreak of war he does not enlist, but is known to be a member of the Rayleigh fire Brigade in 1916, when he is appealed for to remain in the brigade, However after approach to the Home Office, the local Tribunal decide that he must enlist but is not to be called up before 1st January 1917.

It has not been possible to find his war records, however it is known that he survives the war. Again it is not known if he rejoins the Fire Brigade, however he does continue with his plumber and house decorating business as between 1938 and 1944 he is mentioned in the local telephone book as living at 167 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, the telephone number being Rayleigh 319.

He dies in 1946. His daughter Millicent predeceased him in 1924.

Rochford

Montague Ling

Montague Ling was born in 1879 in Rochford, Essex to David and Caroline Sarah Ling. He was the youngest of 3 brothers and 1 sister.

In the 1881 census, when he is 2 years of age, he is shown as living in West Street, Rochford, with his family, his father being shown as a cabinet maker.

Between 1881 and 1891 he is living at West Street, Rochford, however between 1891 and 1901 the family move to Back Street West, Rochford and the 1901 census shows Montague's occupation being a carpenter.

In 1895 Montague places an advertisement in the Chelmsford Chronicle regarding a found Fox Terrier Bitch and states that if it not claimed within the week, it will be sold to defray expenses. At this time his address is given as Church Street, Rochford.

At 2.00pm the 19th May 1905 his father, David, a man of many talents and one of Rochford's oldest inhabitants, dies of "heart affection", and the obituary in the Chelmsford Chronicle stated that his was man of considerable genius, and highly respected in the community, who could turn his hand to anything including painting his own portrait. He was also a player of the cornet and other brass instruments. On 22nd May 1905 Montague attends the funeral of his father David at St Andrew's Church, Rochford, the officiant at the service being the Rev.W. Hodges.

In 1911, at the age of 32 he is still single living with his mother, Caroline and brother Harold at 'Sunnyside' Union Lane, Rochford, Essex, his occupation being a House Carpenter and Decorator.

It is not stated when he joined the Rochford Fire Brigade, however, the paper, the "Essex Newsman" publishes an article in 1913 about a fire that occurred in North Street, Rochford, practically destroying a boot makers shop belong to a Mr Wallis, in which it is stated that the Rochford Fire Brigade under Capt. Montague Ling, arrived and extinguished the fire. On the 6th November 1915 there is another reference to Montague attending a fire at a cottage in Back Lane, Rochford, the property of a Mr Frederick Abrey, and the article, again in the "Essex Newsman" states that Mr Montague Ling a fireman was quickly on the scene with a fire hose and assisted with putting out the flames. However all the furniture in the downstairs room was destroyed.

This latter fire occurred only 4 days before Montague joins the London Divisional Engineers with the regimental number of 3634, On enlistment his record shows that he is 5ft 53/4 inches in height and is 36 years 9 months and his next of kin being Caroline, his mother of 'Sunnyside' Rochford. On 1st April 1916 he transferred to the Royal Engineers as a Sapper, his regimental number now being 548763 He embarks to France on the 28th May 1917 and on the 9th of April 1918 he is wounded by shrapnel to his left thigh, and on the 17th April he is shipped to England.

On the 3rd December 1918 he is at Gillingham Barracks and has been categorised as B3 and is transferred to Class Z Army reserve on the 22.2.1919, on demobilisation. He is awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal for his duty during the war. He also receives a pension for his 40% disability of 11 shillings per week dated from the 23.2.1919.

In 1922 he marries Eva Doel in Rochford. Eva was born in 1901 in Rochford the daughter of Harry Doel 45 years, a Road Foreman and his wife Ellen 48 years.

He lives to the age of 86, dying at 67 Stambridge Road, Rochford on 11th February 1966 leaving his estate to his widow Eva.

Romford

History Of Romford Brigade

Romford vestry was maintaining a parish fire engine by 1787. One or two engine masters were regularly employed. In 1805 they were empowered to recruit six firemen when required. An engine house was built in the workhouse garden in North Street, apparently in 1823; this was retained when the workhouse was sold in 1840. (In 1852 the fire engine was taken over from the vestry by the newly formed Romford local board. A volunteer brigade supported by the local board, was formed in 1890. The founder was Samuel Davis, a local builder. He captained the brigade for many years, and most of the firemen were drawn from his firm. A new fire station was built in Mawney Road, near Davis's premises, soon after the formation of the



Romford Fire Brigade Circa 1914 outside Mawney Road Fire Station

brigade. (fn. 83) It remained in use until 1960, when Essex county council, which had taken over the brigade after the Second World War, opened a new station in Pettits Lane North .

Alfred Richardson

Born in 1871 in Braintree to Frederick Richardson, (a Labouring Carman) and Caroline Richardson nee Gosling. In 1891 he is living with his parents at Market Road, Romford.

In 1891 he is founding member of the volunteer Romford Fire Brigade. In 1893 he marries Rosetta Weeks and by 1901 he has moved to 17 Willow Street, Romford and his occupation is a bricklayer. He has two sons Alfred Ernest and Harold James.

In 1911 he receives a silver medal for long service whilst in the Romford Brigade. At this time he has moved to 48 Mildmay Road, Romford.

At the outbreak of war he remains in the Brigade and is involved in several fires at munitions factories for which he receives the medal of the Order of the British Empire in November 1920, the citation reading “ *for conspicuous courage and devotion to duty at fires at munitions factories*”

In 1937 he receives a silver bar to his long service medal for completing 45 years service and in 1941 he present at the 50 year Jubilee of the Romford Fire Brigade and also receives a 50 year long service medal. It is believed that he is the only recipient of the 50 years service medal in the history of fire fighting.

He died in 1951 in Romford in Essex.

John Richard Holliday

Born on 21st February 1862 at 64 Pearson Street, Stepney to William, a greengrocer and Ann and was baptised at Haggleton St Mary on 16th March 1862 . He had one elder brother James J. and a twin sister Clara F.

In 1881 he is shown in the census as a Blacksmith and on 25th December 1883 he was married in Bethnal Green to Eliza Ferdinando. In 1890 he is a founder member of the Romford Fire Brigade, and in 1901 he stands for the seat of Romford North Ward and is elected. In 1910 he has become a Justice of the Peace.

In 1911 he is chairman of Romford Rural Council and is living at 20 Mawneys Road, Romford, with his wife and son John William, and one domestic servant. His occupation is shown in the census as an Oil and Colour man. In June of 1911 he was presented with a silver medal for 20 years service in the Fire Brigade. In 1913, he resigns from the Council and he attends his last meeting where he is presented with leaving gifts and a gold tie pin consisting of two crossed axes, a helmet and a diamond in the centre from the Romford Fire Brigade. At this time he is an engineer fireman at the that Brigade. He resigns because he is moving to Australia.

In 1914 he and Eliza can be found at 50 Regent Street, Gertrude, in the district of Batman, in the State of Victoria, his occupation being an engineer. He doesn't stay long as by September 1916 he has returned to Romford and is again a member of the Romford Fire Brigade, when he is involved with the Rainham Explosion at the Field Factory, for which he is eventually, in 1920, he is awarded the medal of the O.B.E.

Eliza dies on the 5th February 1928 at Vinton Heath, Park Road, Romford and John Richard dies on the 14th April 1928 at the Cottage Hospital, Romford leaving his estate of just over £7,000 to his son John William, who is by his time an estate agent.

His address at the time of his death was Glendarrah, Linden Street, Romford.

Abner Payne

Born in 1858 to John (a Cowman) and Sarah at Battsford, Suffolk.

On 4th May 1879, he married Charlotte Elizabeth Newman at St Gabriel's, Crisp Street. Charlotte's father was James Newman, a Seaman. At the time of his marriage, Abner is a carpenter. He has 4 daughters, Ethel Rose, Lillian Gertrude, Winifred Frances and Grace Mary and 4 sons, James Edward, Alfred Albert, Frederick Albert and William Leonard. In the 1911 census he is shown as living at 35, Willow Street, Romford.

At an unknown date prior to September 1916, he becomes a member of the Romford Fire Brigade. Whilst with the Brigade, Abner is involved with several fires at munition factories and in 1920 he is awarded the medal of the O.B.E. on the 1st March 1953. The citation being "*For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty at fires at munitions factories*". Abner died on 1st March 1953, at which time he is still living at 35, Willow Street, Romford.

George Alfred Holby,

Born to Henry James Holby and Ann nee Herrington. His father Henry died in December 1869 killed by a beer wagon, when George was three, leaving a wife, Ann, who was to become a charwoman in the 1871 census with 5 sons and 1 daughter.

In 1891 George joins the Romford Fire Brigade as one of the founder members and in June 1892 marries Elizabeth nee Spooner in Orsett. 1911 census occupation house painter and living at Hanah Villas 18, St. Andrews Road, Romford. During the First World War Romford Fire Brigade was called to a fire at a munition factory on the River Thames.



The bravery of the Romford crew went unreported until the end of the war but eventually six firemen were to receive the Order of the British Empire (OBE) from the King for the parts they played in rescuing several young women from a munitions factory at Rainham on the Essex marshes. The building was well ablaze when the Romford crew arrived with their equipment comprising wet cloths to aid breathing, a whistle and a hank of string to keep them together. They removed 12 young women who all survived. Minutes later the factory was blown hundreds of feet into the River Thames. An enquiry found that the cause of the fire was the night watchman smoking a cigarette in the powder room.

George Alfred Holby and his brother Edward Holby were two of those men. George served for 44 years in the Romford Fire Brigade, first as a volunteer on horse drawn firepumps and then as a full-time fireman on the new motor engines. His son Alfred Holby, worked on servicing the engines.

George also held the long service medal. He was 68 when he died.

The death was not expected as he had been attending a fire only a week before he died. However on the 6th November 1932 he passed away at Oldchurch Hospital and his funeral was attended by uniformed firemen . At the time of his death he was still living at 18 St Andrews Road, Romford and was an employee of J.S.Hammond & Son of the Market Place, Romford.

Edward Holby

Awarded medal of OBE on 20th November 1920 Driver/Fireman at Romford Brother of George Alfred Holby. In 1897 he joins the Romford, Fire Brigade. The 1911 census shows Edward is married to Alice Elizabeth and living at East side Cottage, Waterloo Road, Romford. He has two sons, Edward Stanton and Frederick Stephen. and his occupation is a Groom. In June 1911 he receives 20 year silver long service medal as did his brother George Alfred.

In December 1930 when he died, Edward was the licensee of the Slaters Arms, London Road. He had been a member of the brigade for 33 years. He was conveyed to the cemetery on a Fire Engine and his pall bearers were Firemen A. Cockerton C. Davis S. Tetohner, and A D Davis.

William John Tredget.

William was born in 1868 in Warley Essex to Edward Tredget, a plasterer and Eliza Jane nee Trussell. He had 4 elder siblings, Henry 15yrs, Emma S. 9yrs, Edward 7yrs, and Liza 5yrs In 1869 his brother Frank George was born and in 1871 the family are living at 4 Milton Road. South Weald, Brentwood In 1878 his sister Nelly was born and two years later his brother Harry was born

In 1881 the family had moved and are now living at 7 Martins Terrace, Romford and William is a general labourer

In 1891 he is living at 9 Milton Street Romford and is boarding with Isaac Holby and Emily Holby. About this time he joins the Romford Volunteer Fire Brigade, as in 1914 he is presented with his 20 year long service medal.

In 1893 he marries Elizabeth Ann Brown and moves to 122 Market Place Romford were by 1901 he has two children Dorothy and William and his occupation is a plumber.
In 1908 his mother dies and ten years later in 1918, his father, Edward also dies in Romford.

In 1911 he is living with his family at 122 Market Place, Romford and his occupation is a plumber.

At the outbreak of World War 1, William does not enlist, however his son William does and on 27 March 1917 whilst aboard HMS Laforey, a destroyer, which was sunk after hitting a British mine after escorting several freighters to France he was killed. Unfortunately his body was not recovered.

It is not know when William leaves the Brigade, however in 1929 and 1933 he appears in Kelly's directory at 91 Pettits Lane Romford.

In May 1936 William dies in Romford.

Robert Claydon.

Robert was born in Romford in 1885 to, Robert, a Builders labourer, and Emma nee Heard. In 1891 the family are living at 52 Marks Road, Romford. and Robert has 2 elder siblings Charles and Sarah Ann and 2 younger brothers, Bertie and Arthur.

By 1901 the family are living at 131 Marks Road. and Robert has followed in his father's shoes and become a builder's labourer. It was during this year that Robert joined the Romford Volunteer Fire Brigade.

In 1904 he has a daughter Hettie, who was born in Romford and in April 1905 he marries Esther Watkins.

Also in August 1905 he was assaulted by a William Shaw who knocked him down and kicked him and was fined 20 shillings and 4 shillings costs or 14 days imprisonment.

In 1910 he has twins Elsie and Percy Richard and by 1911 Robert is a labourer in the Brewery and the family are living at 62 Marks Road, Romford. The following year he has another daughter Dorothy M.

In 1911 Robert is presented with a bronze medal for 10 years service at the Annual Dinner which took place at the White Hart Hotel. It is not know when he left the Brigade but he died in Sept 1951.

Arthur Cockerton.

Arthur was born in 1882 to James Cockerton who was a chimney cleaner in Hackney, London and Mary. He had a twin brother Robert. and two elder siblings James and Ellen and by 1891 he had a younger brother Charles.

Proir to 1891 his father James had died and his mother Mary, was head of the household. Her occupation was a Chair Caner The family also had a lodger Mary Leadbetter who had been born in Portugal and a General servant Eliza Watkins. The family lived at 2 Triangle Terrace West Street, Hackney. In 1901 the family are still living in Triangle Terrace although they no longer have a Lodger or servant.

In 1906 Arthur marries Annie Mason in Romford Essex and by 1911, the family are living at 56 Marks Road, Romford, Essex and his occupation is a labourer and has a daughter Annie and the family have an adopted child Charles Henry Manning.

In 1913 he has become member of the Romford Volunteer Fire brigade and attends the funeral of PC. Joseph Walt who sustained his fatal injuries whilst stopping a runaway horse. in Romford.

Arthur doe not enlist in the Armed Services in World War 1 but remains in the Fire Brigade serving in Romford.

By 1921 he is living with Annie at 111 Marks Road, Romford and is still living there in 1930

In 1930 he is a pallbearer at the funeral of fireman Edward Holby together with firemen C. Davis S. Tetohner, A D Davis when the coffin was conveyed to the cemetery on a fire engine.

On 4th May 1933 he was presented with a silver medal for 20 years unbroken service.

Arthur died in December 1960 at the age of 78 in Romford Essex

Henry Hill

Henry was born in 1870 in London to Robert Hill, a painter and decorator, and Eliza Hill his mother. In 1891 he is living in Ethelberger Road, Harold Wood, Hornchurch, with his parents Robert and Eliza and his occupation is a Valet.

The 1901 census shadows his birthplace as being Westminster, London, and his father was Robert Hill aged 67 and his mother was Eliza aged 66 and they are both living with Henry and his family at 1 Eaton Vila's, Shaftesbury Road, Romford. Henry's occupation is a painter and decorator as is his father's. Henry has two children, Clifford and John. They also have an orphan Mary Le Bret staying with them who is a scholar.

In 1903 Henry joins the Romford Fire Brigade which was a volunteer brigade, supported by the local board and had been formed in 1890. The founder was Samuel Davis, a local builder. He captained the brigade for many years, and most of the firemen were drawn from his firm, so it was quite possible that Henry worked for him painting the houses which he built. A new fire station was built in Mawney Road, near Davis's premises, soon after the formation of the brigade. It remained in use until 1960, when Essex county council, which had taken over the brigade after the Second World War, opened a new station in Pettits Lane North.

The 1911 census shows that Henry was born in Bermondsey, and is now living at 39 St Marks Road, Romford. His parents Robert and Eliza are no longer living with him and neither is the orphan May le Bret. Henry's family has grown and he now has a daughter Violet and his occupation is now shown as a House Decorator.

In 1913. Henry receives his 10 year long service medal from the Brigade, and later in the same years he attends the funeral of P.C. Joyce who had received fatal injuries in stopping a run away horse and for who a civic funeral was given.

Little is known after 1913 about his work in the fire brigade after this date, but it is known from Council records that he lived at 39 Mark Road, Romford until at least 1927. It is believed that Henry died at the age of 78 in 1948 in Romford.

Frederick John Copsey

Frederick was born in 1878 in Romford to George Collier Copsey, an Upholsterer and his wife Jane Giles Copsey nee Dowsing. At the time of his birth he had 5 elder siblings, Alic, William, George, Gertrude and Sidney, and the family was living in the Market Place, Romford.

Ten years later, the family are still living in the Market Place, Romford and his father had put his occupation down on the census form as a Cabinet Maker and Bill poster. In 1899 at the age of 63 years, his father George dies and the following year Frederick marries Ellen Holgate at St Paul's Old Ford, Tower Hamlets, England and the Frederick and his wife move in to the house in Market Place, Romford and Frederick has become a cabinet maker like his father.

In 1911, Frederick and his wife are living at 58 Market Place, Romford and he has two children Herbert Frank and Frederick George. His mother is still living with them and Frederick's occupation is a Furniture Dealer. A year later in 1912 his mother Jayne dies.

It is not known when Frederick joins the Romford Fire Brigade but it is known that at the outbreak of World War One, Frederick does not enlist and by 1918 he has become a member of the Fire Brigade, as he is appealed for at a tribunal and is granted a 6 month extension.

Frederick dies on 12 August 1944 at The Emergency Hospital, Rush Green, Romford. At the time of his death he was living at 15 Pretoria Road, Romford. Administration went to Ellen Copsey his widow and Herbert Frank Copsey, Company 13 Manager. Effects to the value of £7693 13s.

Saffron Walden



Captain Dix is shown standing in the front of this photograph (in the cap) of the Saffron Walden Fire Brigade outside their Depot at 3 Hill Street Saffron Walden

Andrew Robert Dix

Born in 1867 in Kilburn, London to Richard (Dick) (a builder) and Ellen nee Callaghan, he moved to Saffron Walden prior to 1871 as in the census of that year he is shown as living in Saffron Walden with his parents and elder brothers Joseph and William and younger sister Christina.

In 1881 he is living in West Street, Saffron Walden with his parents and he has obtained a job as a clerk. In 1889 he joins the Saffron Walden Fire Brigade. On the 12 April 1893 he marries Margaret Jane Pilgrim, who is a governess to a surgeon David Hughes, at Saffron Walden (Select Essex Parish Registers 1538-1900)

In 1903 he achieves the rank of Captain of the Saffron Walden Fire Brigade, and in 1909 he receives a long service medal for 20 years service with the Brigade. By 1911 he has two daughters Isobel and Norah and one son Harold. At this time he is living at Crownfield, Debden Road, Saffron Walden and his occupation is shown as a retired Portland Cement Manufacturer.

He remains in the Fire Brigade during the war and in 1917 is mentioned in the Chelmsford Chronicle as being in charge of the Brigade when it attends a fire in the Saffron Walden district. He retires from the Brigade in 1920 and dies on the 14th September 1947 with probate being given to his widow, Margaret Jane to the amount of £7250 6s and 2d.

Albert Edward Housden

Born in 1872 in Saffron Walden to George Housden, a plumber / journeyman and Lydia Housden. He was the eldest of four boys, his siblings being Morris Herbert, Frank and Henry. In 1881 he is living with his family in Castle Street, Saffron Walden.

By 1891 he has become a printer and is still living with his family in Castle street Saffron Walden. By this time he also has a sister Lydia who was born in 1884.

On the 5th February 1900 at the age of 27 he marries Mary Annie Watson at Saffron Walden, who is 3 years his junior and in 1901 they can be found living in Debden Road, Saffron Walden and Albert's occupation is now a plumber.

By 1911, they have a daughter Mildred who is 6 years of age and have moved to 22 Fairycroft Road, Saffron Walden, his occupation being a plumber /decorator

In March 1891 he takes part in the sixth annual Christy Minstrel entertainment given by members of the NATS club which took place in the Town Hall and in 1899 he is elected as vice captain of the Saffron Walden Football club.

In December 1894 he is present at the Saffron Walden Volunteers annual dinner at the Cross Keys Hotel and receives a prize of £1 5 shillings. His rank is shown as corporal.



By 1906 Albert has become a member of the Saffron Walden Fire Brigade and a photo of the brigade taken in 1906 shows him centre right just behind the driver.

He does not enlist in the armed forces at the outbreak of Word War 1 but remains in the fire brigade.

He dies in February 1933 and his obituary in the Chelmsford Chronicle of Friday 17th February

1933 stated *"that he had taken an active part in the sport and social life of the town. He was an accomplished musician, and in addition to his membership of the Town Band he belonged to the Orpheus Orchestra Society. In his younger days he was a member of the Parish church choir and the Town football and cricket clubs, and he was in the football team which won the Essex Junior cup. He was an Old Volunteer, a member of the Fire Brigade and of the Saffron "Bloom" Lodge of Odd fellows."*

He was buried in Saffron Walden cemetery.

Arthur Francis James.

Arthur was born in 1868 to John James, a watch maker, and Eleanor Catherine nee Warner. By 1871, when William Henry was born, the family had moved to Hill street. Saffron Walden.

In 1875 another brother, Harold John, was born and in 1881 the family had moved to Kings Street, Saffron Walden.

In 1883 his father John, dies and by 1891. he is living with his brother-in-law Henry W Day who had married his sister Kate Elizabeth, and his occupation is a watchmaker. At this time he is living at Market Street, Saffron Walden.



By 1901 he is living at 8 King street, Saffron Waldon, still with his brother-in-Law. and has joined the Volunteer Fire Brigade.

On 11 January 1906 he marries Annie Arabella Pitstow

At the age of 40 he Joins the Territorial Army, in particular, the 8th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, at which time he was a watch maker in the employ of his brother-in-law H.Day, and he is residing at 8 West Road, Saffron Walden.

His date of attestation was 30" July 1908. He was 5ft 7 ins in height and had a chest measurement when fully expanded of 38 inches. His regimental number was 100. He held the rank of Colour Sergeant. By 1911 he is living at 20 West Road, Saffron Walden and his occupation is still a watch maker.

During the First World War he was posted to home duties, serving his period of duty on the East Coast in the Harwich and Clacton Areas. He was demobilised on 29" May 1916 at the termination his period of engagement under Kings Regulations 392 XXI at which time he had achieved the rank of RQMS.

He dies at the age of 64 in 1932 at the Freemasons Hospital. Fulham and was buried in Saffron Walden.

William Fitzroy Ackland.

William was born in 1881 to Bryans Thomas Limbert Ackland, a Solicitor and Caroline nee Hale and the family are living in Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden.

In 1891 the family are living at Myddylton Place Saffron Walden and William has two brothers Austin and Bryan and a sister Cicely and the family have 2 servants(a housemaid and a cook.)

In 1900 or thereabouts, William has joined the 3rd (Cambridgeshire) Volunteer Battalion, the Suffolk Regiment and in 1903, he is gazetted as being promoted to Lieutenant from Second Lieutenant.

In 1908 the Territorial Force came into being and the four cyclist companies of Essex and the four cyclist companies from Suffolk were merged to make the Essex and Suffolk (cyclist) Battalion. This became the 8th (Cyclist) Battalion in 1911.

In 1911 he is living with his mother and sister at The Cottage, Wenden Ambo, and his occupation is a Solicitor. Later the same year on June 26th he marries Flora Louisa Nockolds.

At the outbreak of world war 1 he is mobilised and in 1916 he was serving with the 8th Essex Regiment in France.

After the war he is awarded the Victory medal the British War Medal and the Territorial Forces War medal.

It is not known when he joined the Salton Walden Fire Brigade but in 1924 he is Captain of the Brigade when the Brigade attends a fire at Great Mortimers Farmhouse at Ashdon near Saffron Walden..

In 1931 his wife Flora dies.

In 1935 William marries Grace M Barnard on Saffron Walden.

William dies in 1952 and was buried in Saffron Walden Essex.

Julius William Green

Julius was born in 1872 in Saffron Walden, Essex to Julius Green and Anne his mother. He was baptised on 10th October 1872 at Saffron Walden. Two years later he has a brother Jessie, and a short time later his mother Anne dies so that in 1881 he is living with his father who is a still a widower, and his bother Jessie in the High Street, Saffron Walden. His father's occupation is a builder and publican at the Duke of York Public House. Three other people are also living at this address with the family, these being Lydia Wright a 22 yrs old bar-maid, Alice Barker, a 17 year old domestic servant, and her mother Lucy who is a nurse.

By 1891 the family have moved to Audley Road and his father is a builder and has remarried to Zoe. Julius has become a bricklayer, and is still living at home. His brother Jessie has left home, and the family still have a domestic servant, Edith Reed who is 15.

Julius was the captain of the Saffron Walden Football club for some years resigning the captaincy in 1900, and in 1892 he takes part in the NATS club 7th Annual Christy Minstral entertainment and good crowd enjoyed an excellent show.

In September 1894 he has been a member of the local volunteer for some time and has risen to the rank of Lance Corporal when he comes 6th in the Volunteer Prize Shooting Competition held in connection with the 3rd Cambridge Volunteers.

On 13 December 1896 his father Julius dies, with probate going to Julius William Green, a builder and Jessie Charles Green, Clerk in the Church missionary society's office. His effects were to the value of £777 2s 5d.

By 1897 he has become a member of the Saffron Walden Volunteer Fire Brigade, when he participates in a cricket match between the Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Police. In the same year he organises a smoking concert under the auspices of Town Football Club during which he presented the Hon. Secretary of the Club, Mr A. Smith, a handsome and costly time piece in recognition of his services to the club.

On 19th June 1899 he marries Augusta Teresa Brooks at St Pancras, Old St Pancras, London

In 1901 he is still a member of the Local Saffron Walden Volunteers when he wins a prize for attending all the Company Drills.

He not enlist in the armed services during World War 1, but remains in the Saffron Walden Volunteer Fire Brigade.

In 1922 he is still an active builder as his address appears in Kelly's Directory

He dies on 15th June 1924, whilst living at 17 Audley Road, Saffron Walden, with administration of his effects of £1321 7s 7d going to his widow Augusta, and he was buried in Saffron Walden Cemetery.

Shoeburyness

Arthur Robert Cundy

Arthur Robert was born on the 28th October 1882 to David, a Stoker by trade, and Emma Cundy.

In 1902 he married Maud Emma Elizabeth Bengafield at Barling in the Rochford area of Essex and subsequently had 4 children, Dorothy May, Arthur David, Grace Phillis, and Archibald Alfred.

In 1911 he is living at 11, Shoeburyness, Avenue, Shoeburyness. and his occupation is a Coal Carman.

Some considerable time prior to October 1912 he becomes a fireman at Shoebury, and has also joined the Royal Naval Reserve.

Whilst undertaking lifting drill in October 1912 he is injured, and in March 1913, Mr A Richardson of Romford writes to the Council, claiming £15.00 in respect of injuries. The council repudiated liability and the claim was forwarded to the Insurance Society. Despite, as the council state, Mr Cundy has done much in the interests of the brigade and its formation, it is decided that the council should ask for his resignation due to his injury was likely prevent his resuming duty for some time. It is not known if Arthur complied with his request or not!! (*Essex Chronicle 28th March 1913*)

After the outbreak of World War 1, on 1st April 1915, Arthur joins the Royal Navy for the duration of the war, his number being A 7993. On joining he is described as 5ft 7³/₄ inches of dark complexion with brown eyes and a chest measurement of 40¹/₂ inches. At this time he has moved from his 1911 address and is living at 18 Gothic Road, Shoeburyness.

On joining the Navy he is posted to Tilbury but leaves Tilbury on 6th/ April 1915 and goes to HMS 'Actaeon' (*a shore establishment*) which he leaves on 24/1/16 and goes to HMS 'Pembroke' (*which is a training establishment at Chatham Barracks*) on the same day where he remains until the 23/6/16 when he is transferred to HMS 'President III' (a, shore establishment situated at Dedworth Manor, Windsor, Berkshire. (*This establishment covered the accounts of the active services of the Royal Fleet Reserve, the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Royal Naval Reserve from 1916 onwards, also extending to covering demobilisation accounts from December 1919 onwards. The Defensively Equipped Merchant Ship accounts were transferred to HMS Vivid on 1 October 1919*)) as a result of being rated 'acting leading seaman'.

He remains with 'President III' until 15/1/17. He returns to 'Pembroke' until 6/2/17 when he returns to HMS 'President III'.

During this time he is injured which results in his being invalided out on the 10th September 1919.

As a result of which he is awarded 20 shillings per week. It would appear that the reason for his being invalided out was Neurasthenia (an actual physical weakness of nerves).

He is awarded a Silver War Badge number 44008 on the 13th August 1919. The purpose of the Silver War Badge was to protect men of military service age from abuse - if a man was thought not to be in one of the Services then he would be given a white feather and accused of being a coward. This badge was issued to men who had served in the armed forces, but had been discharged as a result of injury or illness. The badge was to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress.

In November 1935, he was a mate on a fishing vessel on which the Captain, Mr Bert Robinson (who was also a member of the Navy during the first World War) was swept overboard by the boom of his vessel during a sudden squall and Arthur nearly lost his life in searching for him.

Arthur dies on the 31st January 1948 at Southend Municipal Hospital, Rochford, Essex, his address at death being 13, Jotmans Lane, South Benfleet, and administration of his will was given to Maud Emma Elizabeth Cundy, his widow

Southend-on-Sea

Charles Edward Elkins

Charles was born in 1886, in Acton, Middlesex, the son of George, 60 yrs, a carpenter and Ellen 50 yrs. In 1911 he is living at 13 Princes Street, Southend and his occupation is a carpenter, like his father. Between 1900, at the age of 14 yrs and 1903 he is a member of the 1st Essex Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers. At sometime between 1903 and 1914 he becomes a member of the Southend Fire Brigade.

On the 9th April 1912 he is married to Daisy Helen (nee Cookes) and is living at 195 Stornaway Road, Southend.

On the 24th October 1914, 2 months after the outbreak of war, he joins a group of firemen from the Southend Brigade, who go to France under the auspices of the British Red Cross to work as an orderly, with a certificate number of 417.

He returns to England prior to February 1916 as on the 26th February 1916 he enlists in the Royal Garrison Artillery, his regimental number being 160048. On his enlistment form he is described as 30 yrs 6 months old, 5ft 6inches in height with a chest girth of 36 1/2 inches when expanded and a chest expansion of 2 inches. After enlisting he is placed in the reserve and is mobilised and posted on the 9th May 1917 and joins his unit at Warley on the 10th May 1917.

He is posted to the signalling depot on the 15 May 1917 and is posted to the British Expeditionary Force in France on the 26th October 1917 and attached to XVIII corps. On the 19th July 1917 he is sent to the 8th Corps signal school for a course and rejoins his unit on the 22nd August 1918 having qualified as signaller. He is granted leave to the UK on the 17th November 1918 pending transfer and on the 24th January 1919 is posted to Purfleet and transferred to Class Z Army Reserve on demobilisation on 23rd February 1919.

He is awarded the British Medal and Victory Medal and for his work with the British Red Cross he was also awarded the 1914 Star.

Charles Perrin

Born in Moor Green, Hertfordshire in 1872, the 1911 census shows that he is a widower who is boarding at 27 Station Road, Prittlewell, his occupation being a carman.,
He enlists on the 5th August 1914, the day after War was declared and had the regimental number 1368.

He was posted overseas, however he was discharged on the 20th March 1915, the reason being given as sickness per 329(xvi) Kings Regulations - no longer physically fit for duty. served overseas. On his discharge he was an Air Mechanic 2nd class and was issued with a silver war badge number 147869 which is gazetted in the London Gazette Number 3244 page 45 under British Army.

Three months after being invalided out of the Royal Flying Corps, on the 19th June 1915 he becomes a motor driver for the Southend Fire Brigade.

Arthur George Potter

Born Burnham-on-Crouch, Arthur George Potter was married on 26th October 1908 to Anne Elizabeth Thrift at St John Church, Southend, In the census of 1911 he is living at 36 Asburnham Road, Southend on Sea, when his daughter Winifred May Potter is born on the 6th May 1911 and his occupation is a window cleaner.



The Queens Own, Royal West Kent
Helmet Plate

When attested on 11th December 1915, his occupation is given as Fireman with Southend Brigade and his address is given as 11 Tyler Avenue, Southend. His descriptive form shows that he is 5ft 11 inches in height with a chest measurement when fully expanded of 37 inches and does not have any distinguishing marks.

After attestation he is placed on the army reserve list on the 12th December 1915 until he is mobilised on the 12th of February 1917 and is posted to the Buffs (East Kent) Regiment. His regimental number being 6384. On 14th February 1917 he is transferred and posted to the 3rd Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment (The Queens Own) with the regimental number 21205.

He is promoted to Lance Corporal on the 13th May 1918. On the 25th October 1918, he unfortunately receives a gunshot wound to his right arm which at the time, a report suggests that it is mild, however on the 18th March 1919, he is discharged from the army under Kings Regulations 394 xvi (a) which indicates that he is surplus to requirements (Having suffered impairment since entry into the service).

Whilst in the army, his wife has moved house and the address on discharge which is given to the army is 65 Milton Street, Southend. For the gunshot wound to his right arm he receives a 30% disability and is granted a pension of 8 shillings and 3d per week (approximately 41 p) which is to be reviewed after 52 weeks.

On 14th May 1919 he receives a Silver War Badge, number B164804 and Certificate. The purpose of the Silver War Badge was to protect men of military service age from abuse - if a man was thought not to be in one of the Services then he would be given a white feather and accused of being a coward. This badge was issued to men who had served in the armed forces, but had been discharged as a result of injury or illness. The badge was to be worn on the right breast while in civilian dress.

On the 12th October 192 he receives the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

George Lionel Harvey

George Lionel Harvey was born in 1896 to William George Harvey, a publican and Ellen Harvey. AT the time of his birth, his family was living at the Alexander House Hotel, 27, High Street, Southend-on-Sea.

The 1911 census shows that he had a sister Minnie, who was 2 years his junior, being born in 1898.



William was, in addition to being a publican, was the captain of the Southend Fire Brigade, and so it was not surprising, when reaching the correct age, that George should become a member of the same brigade. He eventually became a paid member of the Brigade.

At the outbreak of war, George did not volunteer immediately and in September 1916 he is still in the brigade when a Mr Wardley appeals on behalf of the Brigade for exemptions for the firemen from enlisting, as the brigade before the war had 52 men and was by this time down to 39. It must be remembered that by this time, Southend had been subject of a number of bombing attacks by Zeppelins, which had caused damage and injury to people in the town. Despite the arguments put forward by Mr Wardley, the brigade are ordered to lose four men to the services.

One of these men was George Lionel, who was a member of the Mercantile Marine Reserve, who joined RFA Thrush as an assistant motor engineer.

The RFA Thrush was built in 1889 by Scotts of Greenock and was launched on the 22nd June 1889 She was one of a Class of 9 gunboats 2 of which were converted into Salvage Ships, designed by Sir William Henry White, the Royal Navy Director of Naval Construction in 1888, which were the last of the composite-hulled gunboats built for the Royal Navy.



R.F.A

The ship was in 1889 commanded by Lieutenant HRH Prince George of Wales, Royal Navy.

In June 1916 she became a RFA salvage vessel with her name unchanged.

On the 29th January 1917 while under the command of Lieutenant Commander Ivo James Kay RNR, RFA Thrush attended the scene of the sinking of HMS/m K13 in the Gareloch and in the subsequent rescue of 49 of the crew including the submarine's Commanding Officer. The day following the rescue all the crew of Thrush together with those rescue received congratulatory telegrams from H.M. King George V.

However on the 11th April 1917 less than 3 months after being in evolved in the rescue of HMS/m K13, she herself founders off County Antrim, Northern Ireland during a snow storm, with the loss of eight members of the crew including unfortunately, George. The rest of the crew were rescued by breeches buoy.

George's body was recovered and he was buried in Sutton Cemetery, Southend-on-Sea.

Harold Warner.

Born in 1887 to John (a domestic gardener) and Emma Sophia nee Johnson. He was the youngest in the family with four siblings, Florence, Mabel, John Wilfred and Gertrude.

In 1910 he marries Ida Winifred nee Hurley at St George, Hanover Square, London. In the same year he joins the Southend Fire Brigade and in 1912 becomes a motor driver in the Brigade.

In 1911, he is living with his wife and daughter, Hilda Winifred at 10 Grover Street, Southend-on-Sea, and his occupation is shown as a Fireman.

In 1914 at the outbreak of War he does not enlist and remains in the Brigade, as a motor driver is quite a rare position to undertake at this time. On 24th August 1917 WG Harvey, the captain of the Brigade applies for Harold Warner to be exempted at the Local Tribunal, which is adjourned for further medical examination of Harold.

He does not appear to have enlisted, and there is no further reference to him until 1921 when he is summoned for driving a motor fire engine and escape to the common danger.

The circumstances were related to the court by P.C. Reynolds, who stated that he saw a motor fire escape overtaking a tramcar at from 23 to 25 miles per hour. The escape turned suddenly from the near side to the off side and came into collision with a horse and cart, the horse having to be destroyed. The Defendant stated he had been a motor driver since 1912. His speed was about 10 miles per hour. He went on to the offside of the tram as there was a motor car standing on the near side. The Chairman said that whilst the Bench had every respect and admiration for the work of the Fire Brigade, they thought that there had been an error of judgement and they fined the defendant 5 shillings and ordered him to pay 25 shillings costs.

In October 1930 at an inspection of the Brigade by the Mayor, Councillor H.W. Richardson he is presented with his 20 years long service medal.

He dies in Mar 1952 at the age of 65 in Southend-on-Sea.

Samuel Eli Allatson DFM FMM

Samuel Eli Allston was born on 14th December 1891 at Ipswich, Suffolk to Isabella.

In 1901 he is living with Isabella who is domestic housekeeper and 3 brothers Albert, Hennicker and Alfred as a boarder at 3 Lower Orwell Street, Ipswich.

In 1909 Samuel joins the Royal Navy, his number being J3083 and is described as 5ft 8ins in height having black/dark brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He has tattoos on both arms, a woman and woman's head on his right arm and a woman and clasped hands on his left forearm. He signed on for a period of 12 years and after his training at H.M.S. Ganges, he serves

on various ships and land bases including Gressy, Berwick, Pembroke, Vindictive, Hawke, Encounter, Pembroke 1, Agamemnon President II and finally serving at HMS Daedalus, the Royal Naval Air Station at Lee on Solent as an air mechanic. He is serving there on the 1st April 1918 when the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Navy Air Service join together to become the Royal Air Force.

At this time he a Sergeant Mechanic and eventually becomes a Sergeant Mechanic Observer. He is awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal, to recognise his valour, courage or duty performed whilst flying in action operations. The DFM was established on the 3rd June 1918 and was awarded to Non Commissioned Officers and personnel of the Royal Air Force. He is also awarded the French Medaille Militaire, which is gazetted on 8th February 1919. He is allowed to wear his medal as the gazette states that "His Majesty the King has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of this decoration" The DFM was conferred on Samuel for "valuable services rendered in connection with the war by the Government of the French Republic"

In 1915 whilst in the Royal Navy, he marries Dorothy Ellen Childs at Rockford Essex. After the war he becomes a permanent fireman at Southend on Sea and dies in September 1977 at Stamford in Huntingdonshire.

George Charles Spurgeon

George Charles Spurgeon was born on the 6th September 1879 in Fobbing, Essex to Isaac Spurgeon (a plate layer) and Mary Ann nee Chalk. In 1891 he is living at Belton Villas, Leigh, Essex and in 1901 he has moved and is living as a boarder with the Wilder family in Leigh his occupation being a plasterer.

In September 1903 he marries Alice Louisa Raison in Rochford, Essex and he has two children from the marriage, Frederick and Leonard Charles Spurgeon.

In 1909 he joins the Southend on Sea Fire Brigade 1919 as in he is awarded his 10 years service medal In 1911, he is living at 53 Leighville Grove, Leigh on Sea and his occupation is a plasterer.

He does not enlist immediately at the outbreak of World War 1, but in April 1917 he joins the Royal Navy, his number being F 28318. On joining he is described as being 5ft 4 1/4 ins in height with brown hair and brown eyes and does not have any distinguishing marks. He is posted to HMS Pemberton II, a land based 'ship' His next posting is to HMS Daedalus, which is the Royal Naval Air Station at Lee on Solent as an AC1 Trade- Labourer. He is serving there on the 1st April 1918 when the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Navy Air Service join together to become the Royal Air Force. His naval record shows that he was then posted to R.A.F. Cranwell.

Cranwell's association with aviation began during World War I. The Admiralty needed to establish a series of air stations around the south and east coasts to supplement the coastguard system and to alert our shore defences against sea and air invasion. In 1915, the Royal Naval Air Service

(RNAS) sought to establish a single unit at which officers and ratings could be trained to fly aeroplanes, observer kite balloons and airships.

By November 1915, the Admiralty had requisitioned some 2,500 acres of farmland and in the following month, construction of a hutted camp and aircraft hangars began. The Royal Naval Air Service Central Training Establishment Cranwell was commissioned on 1 April 1916, under the command of Commodore Godfrey M. Paine.

On leaving the Service he rejoins the Southend Fire Brigade. It is not known when he leaves but on the 7th December 1958 he dies at Leigh on Sea.

Henry Cooper

Born to George (a cutler) and Charlotte, in 1861 is living at 19 Green Street, Bethnal Green.

In 1882 he married Jessie Elizabeth Vidler by who he had 9 children, 2 of whom had died by 1911. In 1901 he was living in Brook Road, Hackney and was working as a coachman with the Hackney Fire Brigade. His children at this time were, Henry, Rose, Ellen, Florence, Amy and William.

In 1911 he has moved and is living at 11, Grover Street, Southend on Sea and he is now a coachman with the Southend Fire Brigade. In 1917 he receives his ten year service medal.

He dies in September 1942.

James William Moyser

Fireman at Southend Born in 1875 at Stilton, Huntingdonshire to John Moyser (an agricultural worker) and Martha nee Pryor. He is the second eldest in the family with having an elder sister Jane and two younger sisters, Eliza and Louisa.

In 1897 he marries Nellie Wood and in 1901 he is living at 16 Brockley Road, Deptford and his occupation is an art teacher at Coopers School, Bow.

At some time he joins the Southend Fire Brigade and is working there with his son E.J. Moyser. He dies in January 1962 whilst living at 233 Westborough Road, Westcliffe on Sea , which incidentally is the same year in which his son Edward James dies some 10 months later.

Edward J Moyser

Born in 1901 in Deptford Kent, to John (an art master at Coopers School, Bow) and Nellie. Not much is known of his early life, until he is mentioned at the age of 18 as having joined the Southend Fire Brigade as a permanent fireman

In 1925 he marries Isabella M Ross in the Rockford Registration District of Essex.

In August 1929, together with Fireman Crickett and Culam he rescues a woman from a burning room of a house in Portland Avenue, Southend, who unfortunately dies a couple of days latter from Bronchial Pneumonia. A witness, a Mrs Rose Easton who was the owner of the premises stated that the firemen rescued the deceased with difficulty.

In 1948 the British Phone Books show Edward is living at 112 Southchurch Road, Southend on Sea. On 18th October 1962 Edward dies with the administration of his effects being given to his son E.J. Moyser

Alfred Charles Hopgood

Born in 1891 in Prittlewell to Albert John May (a General Labourer) and his wife Fanny.

In 1911 he was living at 126 East Street, Prittlewell and his occupation was a Butcher. He was the eldest of 7 and his siblings were Ruth Elizabeth, Frederick John, Florence Emily, Lucy Amelia, Joseph Leslie and Benjamin Alexander.

In 1922 The Chelmsford Chronicle reports his death at the age of 31 years from pneumonia at the Victoria Hospital Southend, at which time he is resident at the Fire Station at Southend. The report also states that during the war he served in France and showed conspicuous gallantry in work of rescue from a burning building for which he received special recognition from the French Government.

Leopold Frederick May

Born 1898 In Romford Registration District to Father Frederick Joseph May (a Dairy Man) and mother Eleanor nee Beatse. In 1911 he is living at 9 Alexandra Street, Southend on Sea and has two sisters Muriel Nellie and Ida Ross. Frederick died in 1976 at Liskeard, Cornwall.

During World War 1 Leonard was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and gazetted on the 22nd June 1917 being posted to the North Staffordshire (Prince of Wales's) Regiment. During the war, according to his medal index he is awarded the Victory and British Medals and his address on the medal rolls index card is given as 29 York Road, Southend on Sea.

He returns from the War and joins the Southend on Sea Fire Brigade as a volunteer Fireman

His father Frederick Joseph dies on 30th December 1930 at Old Church Hospital Essex. Administration of his will is given to Eleanor, his widow and Frederick Leonard who is a dairy manager.

Frank Oscar Wardill

Born in 1884 to Frank M Wardill (an engine fitter) and Alice F in Walthamstow, Essex. In 1891 he is living with his family at Warner Street, Islington. however by 1897 he is living at 6 Burma Villas, Wesley Road, Southend on Sea, when he wins a Helical Pedal Cycle to the value of £21.00 in a competition run by Sunlight Soap.

In 1908 he marries Annie Thorogood in the Rockford District of Essex and in 1911 he is living at 56 York Road, Southend and his occupation is a bricklayer. In 1910 he attended, as a freemason, the funeral of Sir William Lloyd who had died on the 6th January that year.

At the outbreak of World War One, he is one of the 12 Southend members of the Fire brigade who went to work under the British Red Cross and was promoted to QMS, Certificate Number 379. When the contract with the Red Cross was finished he becomes a sapper in the Royal Engineers number (T)3806 and 552786. He was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Frank died on 2nd April 1953 at which time he was living at 'Rocklands' Priory Crescent, Prittlewell and probate was granted to his widow Annie Wardill and to Robert Frank George Wardill, Architectural Student with effects of £10034 5s 5d

William Henry Sawkins

William was born in 1866 in Stondon Massey to William Sawkins, a blacksmith, and Mary Ann Sawkins, at which time the family were living at "Blacksmith House" Stondon Massey. He had two elder sisters, Ella and Alice and was later to have three younger brothers, Ernest, Alfred and George.

In 1887 he was married to Elizabeth Ann nee Lambirth and by 1891 he has moved to 11 Market Place, Prittlewell and his occupation is shown as a Blacksmith and he has two daughters Bessie and Alice. In 1893 his mother dies and in 1902 his father also dies.

In 1897 he joins the Southend Fire Brigade William is obviously a keen cyclist as on the 11th June 1898 he is involved in the Southend Cycle Races held at Marine Park, in which he came 3rd in the one mile club handicap competition and 1st in the three mile Club Handicap.

By 1911 he has moved to 96 Park Road, Westcliffe on sea and his occupation is shown as an Engineer and now has three further daughters, Dora, Mary and Sally and a son William Edgar. In 1910 he receives a long service medal from the Fire Brigade.

At the out break of war he does not enlist due to his age and remains in the Brigade. In 1917 he receives a 20 year long service medal from the Brigade. His wife Elizabeth dies in 1923 in Southend.

William retires from the Brigade and dies in December 1934 in Southend .

Albert A Keeling

On the 19th June 1939 Albert Keeling and his wife celebrated 50 years of Marriage . The event was reported in the Chelmsford Chronicle which stated that they had been married in Great Clacton in 1889 and that Arthur was for over 20 years a member of the Southend Fire Brigade, and had become the first Parks Superintendent to Southend corporation retiring in 1932

Albert was born in 1867 to Samuel Keeling, an agricultural labourer and Susannah, a dress maker, in Althone Essex and as a boy the family moved to Gosfield, where his father was In the employ of the Courtald Family.

By 1881 the family has moved again to Bradwell, where his father has become the Farm bailiff at West Wick Farm..

In 1889 Arthur marries Ares Dora H Stearn in Clacton, Essex. and moves to 6 Prittlewell Road, Prittlewell, where, by the census of 1891, he has a daughter Mabel Aver and his occupation is a dairyman.

Albert has an interest in Cricket and stores Southend Cricket Club equipment in his warehouse when in 1903 his warehouse is broken into by Harry Kempton and Alfred Gull, who plead guilty to stealing a pair of cricket boots, two silk mufflers, two pair of flannel trousers, a brown leather portmanteau, three cricket shirts and three sweaters, the property of Southend Cricket Club. Kempto was sentenced to 12 months Imprisonment and Gull to three months imprisonment.

It is not known when Albert joins the Southend on Sea Fire Brigade but by June 1910 he has as he is mentioned in the Southend Standard, when the membership of the brigade is published. By 1911 the family has again moved to Chafflets, 24 Hastings Road, Southend on Sea and Albert has become a Park Keeper employed by the Council. Two of his daughters Mable and Edith have left home.

It is not known if he joined the armed forces at the outbreak of World War 1, however it is assumed that he did not, as no record can be found of his enlisting.

In fact very little can be learnt of his period of time within the Fire Brigade

After the war, in 1924, the Essex County Cricket club awarded him a gold watch in appreciation of his efforts and services rendered at the various County Cricket weeks which had been held in Southend.

In 1927 he is a judge at the Southend Police Sports held at Southchurch Park when some 5000 Spectators enjoyed some capital sport.

By 1930 he has become the Corporation Parks superintendent when he donates a Challenge Shield for the exhibitor obtaining most points in open classes and which is won by a MR F. A. Spake.

Arthur is also chairman of the Horticultural society

In 1931 Arthur is elected, for the third time, Chairman of the Association of Superintendents of Parks and Botanical Gardens.

Also in 1931 Arthur is president of the Southchurch Bowling Club.

In 1932 he retires from being Parks Superintendent on pension. and later in the same year he is presented with a silver salver as a memento from the sports clubs using the Corporation's property in appreciation of his services.

He dies on 6th August 1940 just a year after his 50th wedding anniversary, at Lincoln House Nursing home, Harrow, Middlesex, his address at the time of his death was Rock Cliff Thorpe Hall Avenue, Southend on Sea.

Frank Hebert Chandos Dunmore

Frank. H.C. Dunmore was born to Frank, a plumber and Annie nee Guymer. When he was born the family was living at 2 St Johns Road, Prittlewell, Southend and consisted of his parents and 2 elder sisters Lillian and Nellie. By 1911, the family has grown in size. Lillian has left the family and Frank now has 2 younger brothers. Harry and Ray and four younger sisters, Ins, Gladys, Winnie and Ida.

In 1911 Frank was appointed a permanent Fireman at Southend.

At the outbreak of World War 1, the newspaper the Essex Newsman (which reports his death in 1938) states that he enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps and served continuously in France until demobilised in May 1919. However WWI pension records for 1914-1920 show that Frank Herbert Dunmore of 8 St Johns Road Westcliffe on ea enlisted in the Royal Engineers, his regimental number being 52376 and was attested on 16.9.14 with the Army Rank of Driver He was transferred to Signal company on 2.10.14 and was discharged being no longer physically fit for war semi under Kings Regulations 392 XVI and that he spent his service at Home.

On the 5th April 1915 he marries Edith Rosewell at the parish church of St John the Baptist, Rockford, Essex.

Whilst he has been discharged from the Engineers, there is some confusion as whilst there are no further service or pension records for F. H. Dunmore, in the National Archives, there are records held in the WW 1. Service medal and Award Rolls 1914-1920 for Frank Herbert Dunmore, Royal Army Service corps regimental number M/ 3180005, which shows he was awarded the British

war medal and Vichy medal.

In 1916, his son Leonard Frank is born (who died in 1989)

On the formation of the Wickford Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1934 Frank became it's chief officer. However in. 1936 he became ill and on 26" December 1937, after an illness of 12 months duration, he died, the funeral taking place on 30" December 1937 and the internment being at Wickford cemetery.

Harold Ablett Willingale.

Harold was born in 1887 in Southend to Samuel, a bricklayer, and Ellen J. nee Rice and in 1901, he and his family are living at 33 Princes Street, Prittlewell.

He follows his father Samuel into the Southend Fire Brigade and by 1910 he has become the Chief Engineer of the brigade and receives a long service medal.

By the 1911 Census he is living at 28 Princes street, Southend on sea, he is single and he is a bricklayer and is living with his parents.

In World War 1 he was a private in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, his regimental number was 32682. He had previously been in the 8th Somerset Light infantry as a private with regimental number of 178124.

He was awarded the British war medal and Victory Medal

In 1942 he was married to Florence Sophia Coker at the age of 55 yrs.

He dies in The General Hospital, Rochford on 26 July 1966 and probate going to Florence Sophia his widow. He is living, at the time of his death, at 28 Princes Street, Southend on Sea.

Frederick Thorogood

Frederick was born in 1871 to David and Eliza Thorogood in Hulton, in the parish of Little Bustead, Essex. His father's occupation was a gardener and the family lived at the cottages in Hanging Hill Lane, Hutton.

By 1881 the family have moved to Coopers Cottages, Little Burstead and his father's occupation has changed to a Coachman.

By 1891 Frederick is a groom to John Read, a Stock Broker and is resident at "The Chestnuts" Hoe Street, Walthamstow and later the same year he marries Harriet Cripps in the Rochford District of Essex.

By 1901 he has moved with Harriet at 33 Farringdon place, Prittlewell and he has become an Electric Car Driver.

In 1910 he joins the Southend Borough Fire Brigade, however by 1911 he has become an Engineer in the Borough Council Fire Brigade. and is living with Harriet and his daughter Ivy, aged 5yrs, at the Fire station in Tylers Avenue, Southend on Sea.

He does not appear to have enlisted in World war 1 but remains with the Southend Brigade.

In 1930 he is awarded 20yr long service medal.

It is not known when he died.

William George Harvey.

William was born in 1868 in Prittlewell, Essex to Robert and Emily Harvey who were living in Milton Street, Southend-on-Sea. At the time of his. but he had one elder sister Edith who was 2 years of age. By 1881 the family have moved to the Park Hotel Park street, Prittlewell and his father Robert is the publican of this establishment. In 1891 William is still living with his parents although his elder sister Edith has left home. William is working at the Park Hotel and has become an Inn Barman.

In 1894 he marries Ellen and two years later he becomes a father of George Lionel Harvey and two years later of Minnie.

In 1886 he has becomes a member of the Southend Volunteer Fire Brigade when the strength of the Brigade was 14. In 1901 his occupation is shown as a Licensed Publican Victualer and is living at The Alexander Hotel 27 High Street, Southend. By 1906 he becomes the Captain of the Southend on Sea Fire Brigade in succession to his brother in law Captain H. T. Garon.

In 1908 whilst going to the Avenue Fire Station to attend a fire at Warrior Square, he collided with a lamp post cutting near his left eye right to the bone. He attended the fire and it was only after the men had been put to work that he received attention. The blood had saturated the collar and shirt. The Brigade were at the fires for two hours and he remained on duty and directed operations.

In 1910 he was heavily involved with the National Fire Brigade Union Tournament at Southend. In 1911 he is still resident publican, with his family at The Alexandr House Hotel, 27 High Street, Southend.

At the outbreak of World War One he does not enlist but remains in charge of the Southend Brigade, during which time he appeals for several men to remain in the Brigade in order to keep the Brigade efficient. One of the men he fails to retain is his own son George who was drowned whilst in service in the RFR (Salvage Service) as an assistant motor engineer.



Captain William George Harvey

Early on the morning of the 10th May 1915 two Zeppelins visited Southend. dropping about 100 bombs and 15 fires raged at the time. Sixteen days later there was a similar event and on the evening of August 12 1917 twenty German aircraft bombed Southend and killed 32 people and injured 43 others. The Brigade turned out to attend to the injured and to remove the dead and with their hose they washed away the blood.

In 1920 Captain Harvey was awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire for *“conspicuous courage and devotion to duty at fires caused by hostile aircraft and in the rescue of persons from buildings wrecked by Hostile aircraft”*

He eventually became known as one of the foremost authorities in fire fighting work in England.

His wife Ellen dies in November 1930 and in 1932 he marries Nurse D. G. James.

He dies in November 1934 at the age of 67 after a long illness, at which time he was living at The Cloisters, Heygate Avenue, Southend.

Fire Brigades from all parts of the country were represented at the funeral at the Sutton Road Cemetery. Prior to the service at St John’s Church 30 members of the Borough Police Force, marched with nearly 100 Firemen to the deceased’s house. A tender from the Chelmsford Fire Brigade preceded four engines from the Southend Brigade which were covered with wreaths. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, upon which rested the deceased’s helmet and hatchet



Captain Harvey's Funeral

was on a tender.

Abraham (Abe) Steward

Abraham was born on 2nd May 1865 in Wakering, Essex, to James William Steward, a bricklayer and Elizabeth nee Alcock. At the time of his birth he had two elder brothers, William and Robert. By 1871 the family had increased and Abe now had three younger siblings, Elizabeth, Ephraim and Israel. In 1871 the family were living at 2 Park Street, Prittlewell, Essex. During the next few years the family increased with the birth of his brother Frederick, sister Mabel, brother Lionel George who only lives for 2 years dying in 1882 .

By 1881 the family has moved to 28 Park Road Prittlewell, his father has become a builder in his own right and In 1883 his brother Leonard James is born, followed by brother Arthur in the following year.

In 1882 Abe joins the Southend Volunteer Fire Brigade and in 1902 he was presented with a bronze medal for 10 years service, by the Mayor Aldermen J. C. Ingram

By 1891 the family have again moved and are living at 11 Princess Street, Prittlewell. Elizabeth's mother Mary is now living with the family who now also have a domestic servant Ada Griffin. James his father now owns his own building firm and is employing Abe, who is 25 yrs of age as a painter in the firm.

In 1892 Abe marries Annie Elizabeth Murrell in the Rochford district of Essex and the following year has twin daughters, Ivy and Olive Edith. In 1896 he has another daughter Dorothy, however three years later his father James William dies at the age of 54 years. In 1898 Abraham is a Vaccination objector and he applies for and is granted a Vaccination Exemption Certificate for his two children.

In 1901 Abe and his family are living at 108 Park Street, Prittlewell and Abe has become a builder in his own right. In 1902 his son Maurice James is born, but in 1904 his mother Elizabeth dies.

By March 1905, Abe has changed his occupation and become an undertaker, when the body of a Southend cab driver was found hanging in the stables attached to the premises of Mr Steward, the undertaker, in Park Street, Prittlewell, and when Abe was called to the premises, he found that the body was stiff and cold and that the deceased had apparently let himself off from the footboard of a carriage. The jury at the coroner's inquest found that he had committed suicide during temporary insanity.

Abe is obviously interested in sport, and represents the Southend Fire Brigade in 1910 at Cricket against Solbys in the annual fixture. He opened the batting, with Dr Sellors (The Brigade Medical Officer) and despite a good start he fell to a stumping for 6 runs. The Fire Brigade won the game by a total of 6 runs. In a football match again against Solbys, Abe plays in goal for the Fire Brigade and the result of this match was a draw 2-2.

In the same year whilst attending a fire at the Rochford Rectory, where the outbuildings and haystack were alight, the cab Abe was using 'turned turtle' outside the the Old Ship Public House and was smashed up trapping for a short time one of the other Firemen travelling with him.

By 1911, the family are still living at 108 Park Street, however Abe's occupation is shown as a coffin finisher, and his daughter Olive has become a Taylor's assistant and Ivy has become a Dressmaker.

It is not known when he left the Southend Fire Brigade but it is known that he did not enlist in the armed services in World War 1.

In 1924 his wife Anne Elizabeth dies and Abe survives her death by 25 years dying in September 1949.

Alec Hensley White

Alec Hemsley White was born on 27th April 1891 at The Cricketers Inn, London Road, Southend-on-Sea to Alec Hemsley White, a publican and Kate White nee Cardew. He was educated at the London Road Boys' School and on leaving, joined his father's business working at the Cricketers Inn.



From his early days he was an active member of the Southend Fire Brigade which he joined at the age of 14 when his father was second-in-command of what was then known as the Southend Volunteer Fire Brigade, and he was to be seen accompanying his father to all fires served by the Fire Brigade. He later started the Wickford Fire Brigade in 1929. His brass helmet and axe are held at the Essex Fire Museum

When he was 14 years old, Alec met his future wife, Frances Burden Patti Perham. He was a year older than Frances at 22 when they were married at Argyll Road Methodist Church on 25th March 1914. Their marital homes were 'Belmont', Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, then 'Ewlands House', Prittlewell Chase, and then in Marine Parade, Southend. They had three children, Alec Hemsley, Roger Walter and Anita Kathleen Patricia

In 1915, he joined the Royal Flying Corps. On his demobilisation at the conclusion to the war, he returned to the Cricketers Inn and later extended his activities throughout Essex. He remained the licensed victualler at the Cricketers from 1925-1929 until it was then sold.

Alec joined the Westborough Ward Ratepayers Association and eventually became its President. In November 1931, Alec was elected a Councillor for the Westborough ward. He was the Mayor of the County Borough in 1935/6 and was Deputy Mayor throughout the period of the Second World War, and was a member of the War Emergency Committee.

His crowning ambition was achieved with the building and opening of the Cliffs Pavilion, a project he had championed for thirty years.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Alec was commissioned in the RAFVR and appointed to command the first local squadron (1115) of the Air Training Corps, later being promoted to Commanding Officer of the Southend Wing and subsequently being appointed H. M. District Inspecting Officer, which post he held until the end of the war. He played a leading part in the formation of the Gliding School established when the R.A.F. Southend aerodrome became non-operational at the end of hostilities.

Alec had always taken a keen interest in the social and cultural life of the Borough and before his Mayoralty was an active member and eventually President of the Southend Carnival Association for some years and was elected President of many local organisations.

Mr. Alderman Alec Hemsley White was awarded Honorary Freedom of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea on 20th January 1965, at a special meeting of the council at the Cliffs Pavilion

Alec Hemsley White passed away on 27th June 1972 having suffered several strokes. He was cremated at Southend-on-Sea Crematorium. At the time of his death he was residing at Marine Lodge, 22, Cliff Town Parade, Southend-on-Sea

Stratford

Walter Mallison

Walter was born in 1882 in Marylebone to James Mallison, a coachman at Commercial House, and Alice his mother.

In 1901 at the age of 19 years he was a groom. He had a brother Henry who was an electrical engineer and a sister Bertha who in 1909 was a Dress maker.

In 1908 Walter married Rebecca Annie Flint at St. Marylebone, Westminster and by 1911 he has moved with his wife to 20, Cross street, West Ham Lane, Stratford, Essex and had become a coachman in the Fire Brigade.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he doesn't enlist immediately but on 31st Jan 1915 at the age of 32 years, Walter enlists and his rank is shown as a Driver in the Army Service Corps.

At the time of his enlistment he is 5ft 4in with a chest measurement when expanded of 40 1/2 ins He is described as having scars on the back of his neck and scattered scars on the small of his back and that his teeth were deficient in number, but sufficient for mastication.

His enlistment form also shows he has a daughter Marjorie Alice Florence, who was born on 23rd October 1914 at Stafford.

On the 6 Feb 1915 he joined the 25 Reserve Park, 211 Company with regimental number T4/055674

On 22 September 1915 he embarks at Southampton and the following day disembarks at Le Harve

On 28th September 1915, 5 days after disembarkation at Le Harve, he is appointed acting sergeant. On 29 November 1915 his rank reverts to Driver and the following day 30th November he is appointed acting corporal with pay. On 24th December 1915 he is promoted to corporal. On 27th Sept 1916 he was appointed acting Sergeant but reverts to corporal on 27 Nov 1916 (due to being surplus to requirements)

On 3rd December 1916 he is charged with neglect of duty in that he did not parade teams for duty at the time stated, by CSM Sullivan and CSM Gregory for which he was Severely Reprimanded by Major S. W. Bagnall.

He was demobilised on 13 May 1919 and was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

He returns to the Fire Brigade in Stratford and in 1920 he was awarded a certificate and £10.00 by the Lord Mayor for stopping 2 runaway horses and a Mail Van in Aldergate Street

He died in September 1974 at the age of 92 in Southend on Sea, Essex

Walthamstow

Stewart Easson

Stewart Easson was born in Glasgow in 1893 to David Easson and Marion. In 1901 he has moved South and is now living in Bethnal Green London.

In 1911 he is still living with his parents at 1 Ely Place, Hoxton and has 3 younger sisters May, Winifred and Gertrude and a younger brother Edward. At this time he is City Messenger.

In May 1911 at the age of 18 years and 1 month he enlists in the Territorial Army in the 4th (City of London) Bn The London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers for a period of 4 years, his regimental number being 1139. When he joins he is 5ft 3 ins in height with good vision and of good physical development,

At the outbreak of World War 1 on the 5th August 1914 he is embodied into the Royal Fusiliers and between 5th August 1914 and the 4th September 1914 he was based at home but on the 5th August 1914 he was embarked at Southampton to go to Malta as part of the Expeditionary Force.

He was in Malta until the 5th January 1915 when he was embarked to France where he was a member of the expeditionary force.

Whilst here at the front, on the 7th April 1915 he was found guilty of being 1) Being Drunk and 2) Drinking Rum when conveying it to the trenches, for which he received 21 days Field Punishment

No1. Field Punishment Number One, often abbreviated to "F.P. No. 1" or even just "No. 1", consisted of the convicted man being placed in fetters and handcuffs or similar restraints and attached to a fixed object, such as a gun wheel or a fence post, for up to two hours per day. During the early part of World War I, the punishment was often applied with the arms stretched out and the legs tied together, giving rise to the nickname "crucifixion". This was applied for up to three days out of four, up to 21 days total. It was usually applied in field punishment camps set up for this purpose a few miles behind the front line, but when the unit was on the move it would be carried out by the unit itself. It has been alleged that this punishment was sometimes applied within range of enemy fire. During World War I Field Punishment Number One was issued by the British Army on 60210 occasions. (Wikipedia)

On the 2nd February 1916 when he applies to be discharged as he is coming to the end of his period of enlistment, he is attached to the Assistant Provost Marshal of the Guards Division of the British Expeditionary Force. On the 26th May 1916 he is discharged in consequence of

Termination of Engagement. and he is to be a canteen assistant living at his father's address which is 30 Gosport Road, St James Street, Walthamstow.

On discharge he is described as 23 yrs 11 months of age, 5ft 8ins in height of ruddy complexion with brown eyes and brown hair He has tattoo marks on his right forearm of a Flower, Malta 1914 and a (Scotch) Scottish Girl and on his left forearm a bulldog, clasped hands and Malta 1914.

According to the Chelmsford Chronicle he joins the Walthamstow Fire Brigade in 1915, however this can not be correct and should read 1916. where he serves until his death in July 1921. At his funeral his coffin is bourn by members of the Walthamstow Fire Brigade, and there were a large number of firemen from surrounding districts.

Ernest Albert Wild

Born in 1872 to Frederick, a Stationer, and Amilia, he married Elizabeth Blanche Edwards on 3rd April 1892 at the age of 20 at St Mary's Church, Walthamstow.

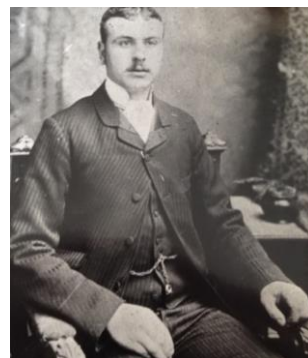
By 1911, Ernest and Blanche have 7 children, Elsie, Ethel, Frederick Blanch, Ernest. Ruby and Walter. He is living with his family at 6 Storey Road, High St, Walthamstow and his parents Frederick and Amilia are also living at this address.

His occupation at this time is a coachman to the Walthamstow urban District council Fire Brigade.

In 1912 his father dies and his mother dies 2years later in 1914.

During World War 1, Ernest joined the Royal Engineers as a sapper, with the regimental number 288486 and was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In 1924, his daughter Elsie died and in 1930 another daughter Elsie also dies Ernest dies on 17" Jan 1946 at Islington, London a week after his wife Blanche who died on 9th January 1946 at Whipps Cross Hospital, Waltham Forest, London.



Ernest Albert Wild

George William Woodruff Harman

George was born in 1866 in the Strand, London. His father was John Charles Harman who was a Livery keeper in the service of the Prince of Wales at Marlborough House, Pall Mall.

Not much is known about his early years until he marries Elizabeth Mary Furneaux at St Philip, Stepney in the borough of Tower Hamlets on 6th June 1893. The marriage register shows that George was a fireman in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and he was shown as living at 70 Copley Street. His father at this time was a solicitor's clerk.

In 1901 George and Elizabeth are living at 11, Rebecca Terrace, Rotherhithe, London and he has three children, Charles, Alice and Lilly. Between 1901 and 1904 he has moved to Walthamstow and is a member of the Walthamstow Fire Brigade as he is mentioned in a newspaper report of that date.

In 1911, he is living at 17 story Road, Walthamstow and has several more children, William, Rose, Jessie and Henry. His occupation is shown as a Brigade Fireman Walthamstow Urban District council.

At the Outbreak of World War 1, he does not enlist immediately, but at the age of 46yrs 5 months he enlists in the Army Service corps, his regimental number being 298860. Interestingly, he puts his trade or calling down as a Labourer He enlists at Aldershot on 6th October 1915.

On the 24th October 1915 he embarked on the "Empress of Britain" at Devonport and disembarked at Mudros as on 7th November 1915. The same day he is posted to the 27th Labour coy. at Mudros.

On the 7th February 1916 he disembarks at Alexandria from Mudros. He leaves Alexandria on 25 March and disembarks at Marseilles on the 1st April 1916.

On the 30th May 1916 he is appointed acting corporal with pay. On the 20 February 1917 he was transferred to the 5th Labour coy. and on the 3 June 1917 he is appointed Acting sergeant with pay

He was discharged on 3 September 1919 And he was awarded the British war medal, the Victory medal and the 1914-15 Star.

His eldest son Charles Woodruff Harman enlisted in the 9th Battalion of the London Regiment but was killed on 3 March 1916 at the age of 19yrs.

It is not known if George returned to the Walthamstow Fire Brigade after the war, but in 1922 he is still resident in Stoney Road, Walthamstow.

Harold Camp.

Harold Camp was born in 1876 to Philip Camp, a publican and Eliza, his wife, in Gilston Hertfordshire. He was a member of a large family, and had 8 brothers and sisters, and in 1881 the family are living at the Pie Corner Feathers Inn, Gilston

On 10th June 1892 Harold joins the Royal Navy his service number being. 167311. On joining he is described as 5ft 4 1/2 ins in height and has brown hair, blue eyes and a swarthy complexion.

He has a tattoo on left forearm.

His first ship was HMS Boscawen, which was a three decked sailing ship of the line which had been reduced to a hulk in 1862 and was then converted into a training ship for toy seamen.

On the 23 January 1894 he signs on for 12 years and is posted to HMS Pembroke, a training establishment, but on 17 March 1894 he purchases his exit from the Navy. It is not known why



Harold Camp

but his conduct is shown as Very Good.

By 1901 he is a border in Walthamstow, having become a Fireman in the Walthamstow Fire Brigade. The same year 1901 sees him married to Jessie Albina Freakes in the Bromley Registration District

On 6 October 1910 he becomes a free mason joining the Beaconsfield lodge at Walthamstow and by 1911 he has become second officer in the Walthamstow Fire Brigade. He is now living at 5, Storey Road, Walthamstow and has 4 children, Ollie Evelyn 9yrs Harold 7yrs James 5yrs and Dorothy 3yrs.

Also in 1911 he gives the eulogy at the funeral of Superintendent McCall who was 52 years of age.

In 1931 he is the Superintendent of the Walthamstow Fire Brigade when he gives evidence at the trial of Edward Knight who had been summoned for knowingly giving a false alarm of fire

In 1939 he is Chief Officer of the Walthamstow Fire Brigade and he is living with his family at 343 Forest Road, Walthamstow, Essex.

He died on the 14 February, 1946, at which time he was living at 27 Barnabas Road, Woodford Green. Probate was given to his widow Jessie Alberta Camp.

William Clements.

William was born in Westbury on Seven Gloucestershire in April 1866 to John Clements, an agricultural Labourer and Patience his wife. At the time of his birth his father was 47 and his mother 43. and he was the youngest of the family having 4 elder siblings, John 17 yrs Mary Ann 13 yrs Emmily 8yrs and Eliza 5yrs. The family at this time were living at "Briery Patch' Westbury on Severn

By 1881 the family have moved to Holders Cottage, Rodley, Westbury on Severn and William has become an Agricultural Labourer. Unfortunately at this time his mother Patience has become bedridden

By 1901 William has moved into his own property at Bury court, Westbury on Seven
In Feb 1902 he names Harriet in Rotherham, South Yorkshire and in 1904 his son Alfred Henry is born in Rotherham, so it would appear that after his marriage he remained (i the Rotherham area.

However by 1907, when his daughter Ellen Elizabeth is born he has moved to Walthamstow in Essex and becomes a Brigade Fireman in the Walthamstow Urban District council. as a newspaper report shows he is a member of the Brigade in 1909.

In 1911 he is living at 211 Highman's Hill Road Walthamstow.

Despite research. it has been impossible to find any reference to William after the 1911 census.

Alfred Price

Alfred was born on 21st February 1870 in Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent to Alfred Price, a brick moulder, and Eleanor Rosa nee Boorman his wife

By 1881, he has a younger sister Eleanor and with his father, the family are living in Milton in Kent as lodgers with a family called Gorf at 23 Mill Street, Milton.

On 21st February 1888 he joins the Royal Navy for a period of 12 years with the Naval Service number of 133963 During his service he served on many ships including HMS *Rodney*, a Victorian Royal Navy Battleship of the Admiral Class and HMS *Sappho*, which was an Apollo-class cruiser of the British Royal Navy which served from 1892 to 1918 in various colonial posts. His period of service expires in March 1900 and in 1901 Alfred can be found living with his Grandfather and Grandmother, Henry and Rachel Price at 41 Mill Street, Milton next Sittingbourne and he has become a member of the local Fire Brigade.

On 2nd August 1903 he marries Mary Ann Thake at Walthamstow in Essex and moves to 1 Truro Road Walthamstow and joins the Walthamstow Fire Brigade. On the 7th February 1906 he joins the Royal Naval Reserve.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he re-enlists with the Royal Navy with the same number that he has held before and has the rank of 2nd Yeoman Signals and on the 7th August 1914 he is posted to HMS *Hawke*.

HMS *Hawke* was an "Edgar" class protected cruiser, which had something of a chequered life as on the 20th Sept 1911, prior to Alfred joining her, *Hawke*, under command of Commander W.F. Blunt, collided in the Solent with the White Star ocean liner RMS *Olympic*. In the course of the collision, *Hawke* lost her bow. (This was replaced by a

straight bow). The subsequent trial pronounced *Hawke* to be free from any blame. During the trial, a theory was advanced that the large amount of water displaced by *Olympic* had generated a suction that had drawn *Hawke* off course. The decision of the first court to try the case provoked a series of legal appeals.

In August 1914 on the outbreak of the World War 1, HMS. *Hawke* formed part of the 10th Cruiser Squadron operating on blockade duties between the Shetland Islands and Norway. In October the



H.M.S. Hawke
Wikipedia

10th Cruiser Squadron was deployed further south in the North Sea to stop German Warships attacking a troop convoy. HMS *Hawke* stopped at 9.30am to pick up mail from HMS *Endymion*. After recovering her boat, *Hawke* proceeded at 13 knots without zig-zaging and was out of sight of the rest of the Squadron when at 10.30 am a torpedo from the German Submarine U9 struck HMS *Hawke*, which immediately capsized and 524 officers and men died including Alfred. There were only 70 survivors which included the Captain. Alfred's body was never recovered and he is mentioned on the Cheetham Navy Memorial, Chatham, Medway Unitary Authority, Kent, England, Plot 3, Memorial ID 14378767

George Edward Newitt

George Edward Newitt was born in 1866 in Bengal, India to James Newitt and Lydia Baker Newitt nee Pleasance. At the time of his birth he has one elder brother Charles J. In 1871, the family have returned to England and can be found living at 10 Custom Street, Cambridge. James, his father is a labourer and there is an addition to the family in the shape of Alfred who is 7 months old. It is not known how long Alfred lived but by 1881 he is not mentioned in the census. By 1881 the family have moved to 116 Pimlico Road, Chelsea, London. George has become a car boy working for a carrier firm and George has two further siblings Lydia who is 7 and Frank who is 3 years of age.

On 26th January 1892, George marries Emily Agnes Mather at Greenwich St Peter, Greenwich. His occupation is shown as a Coachman for the Fire Brigade, and his father's occupation is shown as an army pensioner.

By 1901 George has moved to Walthamstow and he now has two sons George W and Henry E and a daughter Daisy F. In the following census in 1911 he is living at 28 Selborne Avenue, Walthamstow and he is a Brigade Fireman at Walthamstow Urban District Council and he has two further children, Alice Emily and Leslie Ernest.

At the outbreak of World War 1 George joins the 7th Battalion of the Essex Regiment and on the 6th August 1914 he is considered fit for service in the Territorial Force. He also declares on his application form that. He was a member of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons which he has left on the expiration of service. He is given the regimental number of 2549. On his application form his date of birth is shown as 1870, meaning that he has taken 4 years off his age in order to join. His medical form shows that he was 5ft 11inches in height and has a chest measurement of 38 1/2 inches when fully expanded. He serves in the Essex Regiment from the 6th August 1914 to 5th August 1916 at home stations. On the 4th August 1914 The 1/6th stationed at West Ham and the 1/7th stationed at Walthamstow both as part of the Essex Brigade of the East Anglian Division and then moved to Norwich. On 5th August 1916 he is discharged because of his age under Kings Regulations para 392 XX1.

His son Harry Edward James Newitt also enlists and joins the Royal Field Artillery, his regimental number being 84822 He is mentioned in dispatches and he is awarded the 15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He is discharged on 31st March 1920.
It is not known if George returns to the Walthamstow Fire Brigade after the War

George dies in 1944 in Walthamstow, Essex.

Wanstead

History of Wanstead Fire Brigade

The first mention of a Fire Engine being in use in Wanstead was that which was given to the Parish Vestry (who were responsible for the fighting of fire) by Daniel Waldo in 1729 and this remained in service until 1778. Another engine was bought in 1874 which was housed at the George Public House and later at the Local Board Offices in Church Path.

In 1913 a new Fire Station was opened in Wanstead Place and in 1919 the first motor Fire engine went into service. The Fire Station was closed in 1957.

Charles William Goldstone

Charles William Goldstone was born to Alfred B Goldstone, a bricklayer, and his wife Annie in 1895, at which time the family lived at 15, Tilney Road, Wanstead. He was eventually to become the second eldest son and third eldest in the family, his brothers being, Alfred aged 17 years, Edward aged 14 years and Stanley aged 6 years and his sisters being Dorothy aged 18 years and Annie aged 3 years. *(information taken from the 1911 Census)*

In 1911 the family have moved to 43 Wellesley Road, Wanstead, and Charles has left school and become a clerk in a warehouse. Possibly to enhance his experiences, shortly after this time Charles joins the Wanstead Fire Brigade, as in 1912 he is injured, together with six other firemen when the Fire engine, on its way to a call at Grove Farm, to deal with field fire, overturns as a result of hitting the corner kerbstone, after the horses pulling the fire engine had bolted.

This does not seem to stop Charles's search for adventure as he, joins the Kings Royal Rifles (territorials) and after having completed 18 months with them, he appears to have travelled to South Africa, because on the 4th December 1915, after the outbreak of World War 1, he enlists in the South African Heavy Artillery, his regimental number being X105, at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

The (old) Corps of South African Heavy Artillery was formed at Cape Town for service in German South-West Africa under Lt.-Col. J. M. Rose with a variety of animal drawn naval guns and howitzers. By June 1915 this Corps consisted of a Headquarters and three brigades. The (old) Corps was demobilised on 31st July 1915 and an Imperial Service unit - the (new) South African Heavy Artillery (Corps) – was raised for service in Europe. In March 1916 the South African Heavy Artillery was rated as siege artillery in the Royal Garrison Artillery and issued with FWD tractors and 6-in 26 cwt howitzers. The original batteries were renumbered as the 71st, 72nd and 75th (SA) Siege Batteries (44th Brigade RGA) and as the 73rd and 74th (SA) Siege Batteries (and in April 1916 the 125th (SA) Siege Battery) (50th Brigade RGA). These 4-gun batteries were later upgraded to 6-gun batteries by incorporating sections from the 496th (SA), 497th (SA) (March 1918) and 542nd (SA) Siege Batteries (May 1918).

The first five batteries arrived on the Western Front during April 1916 (125th July 1916) joining numerous independent Heavy Artillery Groups (HAGs) that were under Corps' control. In



December 1917 the first six siege batteries formed the 44th Heavy Artillery Group (71st, 73rd and 125th) and the 50th Heavy Artillery Group (72nd, 74th and 75th) and in January 1918 these Groups were renamed as the 44th and 50th (S.A.) Brigades each of which had one additional Royal Garrison Artillery battery.

As part of these HAGs the six batteries supported operations on The Somme in 1916 and early 1917. In June 1916 71st and 72nd supported the Canadians at Mount Sorrel near Ypres. During 1917 the operations were near Arras, Ypres and Cambrai. The British Expeditionary Force recovered from the shock of the German offensives in the Spring of 1918 and in August 1918 began the great offensive that won the war. (Carl Hoehler, South African Heavy Artillery).

Between the 1st of December 1915 and the 15th of January 1916, Charles travels home to England and between the 16th January 20th July 1916, he is stationed in England, and as might be expected in view of the above, has become a member of the Royal Garrison Artillery, his regimental number being 7861. Between the 21st July and the 2nd December 1916 he is sent as part of the British Expeditionary Force to France, and it is assumed that during this time, he may well have been involved in the Battle of Deville Wood, in which the South African Regiments took part.

In November 1916 whilst in France in France, He is 'blown up' (*His own words in a later statement to a medical board*) and carried away unconscious, He recovered but two hours later had an epileptic fit. This results in him spending time in 7 different military hospitals and having about 13 or 14 fits. However during this time, there is no record (in evidence given to the Military Medical Board) of anyone witnessing these fits. However at the Medical Board he attends in 1919, he is given a 30 % disability and the Board also noted that he had defective vision, in that he had a divergent squint, which in their opinion dated from before he enlisted. He is prescribed glasses for this ailment, but they do find that he suffers from recurring severe headaches and attribute this to the War. As a consequence of this he is discharged from the army under Kings Regulations 394 xvi (a) which indicates that he is surplus to requirements (Having suffered impairment since entry into the service).

At some time during the War he has married Ruby, and she is living at 107, Chestnut Avenue, Forrest Gate, London, the address to which he is discharged.

After the war he becomes a Tramcar conductor, and has three daughters, Phyllis Ruby, Peggy May and Patricia Ann, however the wanderlust is still with him and on the 12th January 1928, he emigrates to Australia aboard the P&O ship BORDA and disembarks at Fremantle on the 22nd February 1928.

Charles Thomas Grundy

Charles was born in 1881 in West Ham to Thomas W Grundy, a carpenter and his wife Louisa. At the time of his birth he had one elder sibling, Maud. However by 1901 he had five younger siblings, William J, Frederick G, Bertram, Beatrice and Margaret. At this time the family are living in Camden Road, Wanstead and Charles has followed in his father's footsteps and become a carpenter



On 29th August 1903 he marries Emma Tween at West Ham and in 1905 he joins the Wanstead Fire Brigade.

By 1911 he has moved to Mansfield Road, George Lane, Wanstead and now has four children, Emma L, Charles, A George T and William A.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist in the armed service but remains with the Wanstead Fire Brigade throughout the War.

In 1925 he receives a Fire Brigade Silver Medal for 20 years service.

Charles dies at the age of 68 in March 1950 in the South Western District of Essex.

West Ham

Henry Vickers

Henry was born to John and Charlotte Vickers in Barton, Lincolnshire in 1868.

By 1901 he has moved to London and is living in Woodstock Street, West Ham. He has become a fireman with the local fire brigade and is married to Annie and has two children, William and Hilda.

By 1917 he has moved to 2 Fort Street, Silvertown and is a member of the Silvertown Fire Brigade.

On the 19th January 1917 a fire and explosion occurred at Brunner-Mond's munitions factory at Crescent Wharf, North Woolwich Road, Silvertown. At 6.52 pm. a blast occurred at a munitions factory that was manufacturing explosives for Britain's World War I military effort. Approximately 50 tons of trinitrotoluene (TNT) exploded, killing 73 people and injuring 400 more, as well as causing substantial damage in the local area. A fire broke out in the melt-pot room, and efforts to put it out were under way when the TNT exploded.

Seventy-three people were killed, and more than 400 injured. Up to 70,000 properties were damaged, 900 nearby ones destroyed or unsalvageable damaged, including to the Silvertown Fire Station at which Henry was based. Shrapnel from this explosion also caused a serious fire in a large gasometer at Blackwall and at the East Greenwich Gas Works on the opposite side of the river as well as triggering numerous street alarm calls to various parts of East and South East London by people who had seen the glow of the fire in the night sky.

In late January 1917, there is a public funeral service at which the King's representative, the Honourable Henry Stoner attended, as well as the Bishop of Chelmsford, together with other dignitaries. There were thousands of mourners present and a great demonstration of sorrow was obvious.

At the burial of the Fire Officers, the Bishop of Chelmsford stated that he had often wished that there was a decoration given to firemen equal in importance and in value to that of the Victoria Cross.



After the explosion, Annie and the family move to Plymouth, and the West Ham Council write to her expressing their sincere sympathy and stating, '... The members of the Council felt that your husband as willingly gave his life and died gloriously as any soldier on the battlefield' She was later presented with a medal on behalf of the council, the medal described as the Corporation of West Ham Bravery Medal, obv. heraldic shield, 'Corporation of West Ham'; rev, 'Presented for Bravery', with shield bearing fireman's helmet and axe, engraved 'To Sub-Officer Henry Vickers'; edge inscribed, 19th January 1917', 38mm., silver, with silver buckle on ribbon, and presented in fitted case.



The Council also erect a memorial to the Fireman who were killed in West Ham Cemetery.



Frederick Charles Sell

Frederick Charles Sell was born in 1872 in Fulham to Thomas, who was a police sergeant, and Rosalie Sell.

In 1898 Frederick marries Caroline Louise Muntz in Great Yarmouth at the age of 26 years, and he became a fireman with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, where in 1901 he was stationed at Mile End in London, his address being Jewel Street, Mile End Road.

Silvertown Memorial

By the census of 1911, he has left the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and joined the West Ham Brigade, which was officially in Essex. He is living at address is 14 Agnes Street, Silvertown, and has a family of 4 sons, Harold, Frederick, Thomas and Leonard and 1 daughter, Winifred.

Friday 19th January 1917 was a day which would have devastating consequences for the Sell family. At 6.52 pm. a blast occurred at a munitions factory that was manufacturing explosives for Britain's World War I military effort. Approximately 50 tons of trinitrotoluene (TNT) exploded, killing 73 people and injuring 400 more, as well as causing substantial damage in the local area. A fire broke out in the melt-pot room, and efforts to put it out were under way when the TNT exploded.

Seventy-three people were killed, and more than 400 injured. Up to 70,000 properties were damaged, 900 nearby ones destroyed or unsalvageable damaged, including to the Silvertown Fire Station at which Frederick was based.

Fireman Sell and his daughter Winifred were killed in the explosion, Winifred being 15 years of age and a scholarship pupil at the Central Secondary School.



Silvertown Fire Station
Essex Fire museum



The damage caused by the explosion was extremely severe, the factory was destroyed and houses for a great distance were damaged, some beyond repair. Among the injured were an number of fireman as well as police officers and factory workers and their families.

In late January 1917, there is a public funeral service at which the King's representative, the Honourable Henry Stoner attended, as well as the Bishop of Chelmsford, together with other dignitaries. There were thousands of mourners present and a great demonstration of sorrow was obvious.

At the burial of the Fire Officers, the Bishop of Chelmsford stated that he had often wished that there was a decoration given to firemen equal in importance and in value to that of the Victoria Cross.

On the 25th June 1918, Frederick's widow, Caroline Louise, attends at the investiture held at Stratford, at the West Ham Recreation Ground, where she receives a medal, presented by the Town Council, in memory of her deceased husband.

The people of Silvertown also remembered the work done by the Fire Brigade and erected a plaque in memory of their valiant work, deaths and injuries.



Francis Allam

Born 13 Sept 1868 in Cookham, Berkshire, son of Absalom (a fishmonger) and Sarah. In 1881 census living with parents at 20 Market Street, Cookham , Berkshire. Absalom was born in 1825 and died in 1898 and Sarah born 1827 died 1920.

In 1900 Francis marries Harriet Rogers and in 1901 they are living at 4 Woodstock Road, West Ham. Living at Number 2 Woodstock Road is George Joseph Howes and his wife, Emily and the neighbours at 6 Woodstock Road are William Johnson and his wife Bertha

By 1911 Francis has moved and is living with Harriett and two daughters, Nora Harriett and Ida Marjorie and one son, Alan Francis at the Fire Station, Barking Road, Canning Town E.

He does not enlist in the armed services at the out break of World War One, but remains with the Fire Brigade.

On 19th November 1920 he is awarded medal of OBE on 20th November 1920 the citation reading as follows *"For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on the occasion of a fire at a munitions factory"* (Chelmsford Chronicle 19th November 1920)

Francis dies in April 1942 at Dartford, Kent.

George James Howes

George was born in July 1877 at St Saviours, Wallworth London to Charles Thomas Howes, a Hackney Carriage Driver, and Caroline Sarah Howes nee Jones. He was baptised at St John the Evangelist on 7th August 1877. At the time of his birth he had three elder siblings, Charles Thomas, Caroline and Sarah. By 1881 he has two further siblings Frederick John and Elizabeth, and the family are living at 22 Deacon Street, Newington.

On 11th July 1900 he marries Emily Kate Dorothy Routley at St Andrews, Wells Street, Marylebone, at which time he is a Fireman working at West Ham. in this year he has his first son George T., followed in 1903 by the birth of Walter John Thomas and in 1905 by the birth of Leonard William. in 1911 he is living at the Fire Station, Barking Road, Canning Town.

he does not enlist in the armed services in World War 1, but remains in the Fire Brigade. After the War he has another son, Robert Douglas who dies in 1953 after service in the R.A.F. Durable no World War 2.

On 18th September 1956 he and his wife emigrate to Australia aboard the P and O Steamship Strathavern.

In 1963 his wife Emily Kate dies in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia followed 3 years later by the death of George in Sydney, New South Wales.

Ernest Milstead

Ernest was born in 1873 in Faversham in Kent to Samuel Millstead (a Mariner) and his wife Mary Ann. In 1881 he had 7 siblings, Charles, Ada, Samuel, Frank, Walter, Ann and Alice. By 1901 he is a Fireman with the Clerkenwell Fire Brigade living at the Fire Station 44 Roseberry Street, Clerkenwell.

In 1903 he marries Rose Mary McNeil at Lewisham and by 1911 he is a Fireman at West Ham.

In June 1918 he is awarded the Kings Police Medal at an investiture at Stratford. His name was also placed on the Roll of Honour of the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust and he was presented with the honorary certificate of the Trust and a sum of £5.00 by the Mayor. He was also presented with the Town Council's medal with bar by the Mayor.

The first Hero Fund, the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, was established in America in 1904 after a colliery disaster near Carnegie's adopted home of Pittsburgh when 181 men, including two who gave their lives in rescue attempts, were killed in an explosion at the Harwick Colliery. In these days, when a family lost the breadwinner, some barely survived. When Andrew Carnegie heard of this tragedy, he immediately donated the sum of \$50,000 thus doubling the amount raised by public subscription. He described the Hero Fund as ".. my ain bairn" and later wrote: "It (the Fund) has proved from every point of view a decided success."

The Carnegie Hero Fund Trust was established in Britain in 1908 and was soon followed by nine Funds on the European continent.

The continuing aim of the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust UK is to recognise civilian heroism and give financial assistance, where necessary, to people who have been injured or to the dependants of people who have been killed in attempting to save another human life in peaceful pursuits. Its geographical area is Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the surrounding territorial waters. (www.carnegiehero.org.uk/)

Abraham Robinson

Born in 1853, In 1861 he can be found living with his grandparents Thomas Robinson (a mariner) and his wife Mary at the High Street, Queenborough, Kent.

On the 29th April 1878 he marries Susan Waterman at St Mary Stratford Bow and has 3 daughters, Jane, Lillian and Ethel and one son, Abraham by her.

In 1881 he is living at 20 Victoria Street, West Ham and his occupation is a Fireman with the West Ham Fire Brigade. However by 1891 he is a widower and has moved to the Fire Station, North Woolwich Road with his children.

In November 1920 he is awarded the medal of OBE and at this time he is a Superintendent of the East Ham Brigade, based Stratford Fire Station. The citation for his medal reads "*For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty at fires at munitions factories*" (*Chelmsford Chronicle 19th November 1920*)

Abraham dies on the 6th June 1930 at Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone, his address being 16 Ramsey Road, Forest Gate, Essex and administration of his effects being given to Jane Bailey and Lillian Warner, his daughters.

Walter Arthur Mallison

Walter Mallison was born in 1882 in Marylebone, London to James Mallison, a Coachman and Alice Mallison. At the age of 19 years in 1901 he was groom and had a brother Henry, an electrical engineer apprentice and a sister Bertha who was a dress maker and was living with his parents at 9 East Street Buildings, Marylebone. IN 1908 he married Rebecca Ann Flint and by 1911 had moved to 20 Cross Street, West Ham Lane, Stratford, and has become a coachman with the West Ham Fire Brigade.

Alfred H Braddick

Alfred was born in 1861 to John A Braddick, an Inspector in the Metropolitan Police and Eliza Ann Lockwood in Marylebone, Middlesex. At the time of his birth he had five elder siblings Elizabeth A., John William, James, William and Mary and the family were living in North Street, Marylebone. By 1871 the family are living at 12 Peel Road, Willesden and Alfred has a younger brother Frank J. His father has left the Police and has become a basket maker.

In August 1876 Alfred joins the Royal Navy and his first ship was HMS Fisgard which was a shore establishment which was used to train Artificers and Engineers for the Navy. He served on several ships including HMS Duke of Wellington which began as a sail powered ship which was later converted to steam power shortly thereafter with the addition of reciprocating piston engines. She was a 131 gun first rate ship of the line, her primary armament being 10 x 8inch main guns which were supplemented by a mass of smaller caliber weaponry in the form of some 121 other cannon.

Alfred served on a variety of other ships finishing his service in the Royal Navy at HMS Excellent a shore establishment at Portsmouth. He left the Navy on 29th March 1889 and in 1891 he has married Isabella and has become a Fireman in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in Bromley and is living in Glebe Road, Bromley.

By 1901 he and Isabella have moved to 9 Emma Street, North Woolwich Road, Silvertown and has become a fireman in the West Ham Brigade. At the outbreak of the First World War he remains in the Fire Brigade and does so throughout the war and beyond. By 1920 he has become a sub officer of the West Ham Brigade and is awarded the medal of the O.B.E for service in connection with the War.

Alfred dies at the age of 75 in December 1936 in the registration district of Hackney.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he did not enlist immediately but on the 31 January 1915 at the age of 32 years, Walter enlists and his rank is shown as a Driver in the Army Service Corps. At the time of enlistment is described as being 5ft 4 1/2 ins and with a chest measurement of 40 1/2 ins He is described as having scars on the back of his neck and scattered scars in the small of his back. It is also noted that his teeth were deficient in number but sufficient for mastication . His enlistment form also shows that he has a daughter Marjorie Ann Florence, who was born on the 23rd October 1914 at Stratford. On 6th February he joins the 25th Reserve Park 211 Company with a regimental number of T4/055674.

On 22nd September 1915 he embarks at Southampton and the following day disembarks at Le Harve. On the 29th September 1915, 5 days after disembarking, he is promoted to Acting Sergeant, however this is not for long as on the 25th November 1915 his rank reverts to that of Driver, and the following day he is appointed Acting Corporal with pay and on the 24th December 1915 he is promoted to Corporal.

On the 27th September 1916 he was appointed Acting Sergeant but on the 26th November 1916 he reverts to the rank of Corporal, as he was surplus to requirements.

On 3rd December 1916 he is charged by SSM Sullivan and CSM Gregory with neglect of duty in that he did not parade teams for duty at the time stated. for which he was Severely Reprimanded by Major S.W Bagnall

He was demobilised on the 13th May 1919, and was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

He returns to the Fire Brigade in Stratford and in 1920 he was awarded a certificate and £10.00 for stopping a runaway horse and mail van in Aldgate Street.

He dies in September 1974 at the age of 92 in Southend on Sea, Essex.

John Richard Exall

John Richard Exall was born in 186 is Poplar, Middlesex to Richard Exall, a wood sawyer, and Elizabeth nee Law. At the time of his birth he had two elder siblings Thomas and Elizabeth.

By 1881 at the age of 14 John is a "Society Boy" in the "Marine Society Ship Warspite". The Warspite was lent to the Marine Society by the Admiralty in 1876 for use as a training ships for boys. To qualify for a place aboard T.S.Warspite, the boy had to be the son of poor parents, medically fit and of good honest character. He was then apprenticed to the Marine Society for two years and his training would be " free of all expense to parents or guardians". After a minimum of six months training, boys could be selected and sent for service in the Navy and the Society would cancel their indentures. Boys destined for service in the Mercantile Marine would complete 12 to 15 months course on "Warspite" and then be discharged to the Society's Shipping agent for draft to Sea, on the understanding that they would complete the remainder of their indentured apprenticeship at Sea. (Great War Forum, internet)

There is no record of John having joined the Royal Navy or the Mercantile Marine, however by 1891 he has become a Fireman stationed at Southwark Bridge Road Fire Brigade Station and he is living at the Station.

On 27th June 1892 he married Jane Chapman at St Saviour Southwark, however by 1901 he has moved to 16 Victoria Street, West Ham with his wife. He now has 3 children, Ada, John and Florence.

In 1911. He has again moved address to the Fire Station, North Woolwich Road, Silvertown East and has a further child Winnie. He does not enlist in the armed services during the First World War but remains with the Fire Brigade.

By 1927 he has become Second Officer of the West Ham Fire Brigade and in the New Year's Honours List of 1927 he is awarded the Kings Police Medal for exemplary service distinguished by special merit and ability, A year later he retires from the Brigade and in 1929 his death is reported in the Chelmsford Chronicle. His address at the time of his death was Keswick Gardens, Ilford

Henry Johnson

Henry was born in Southampton in 1887 to Isaiah Thomas Johnson who was a Superintendent of the Fire Brigade and Maria nee Stillaman. At the time of his birth he had four elder brothers, Thomas, Alex. Alfred and Arthur and by the 1891 census he has another brother Frederick. The family had moved from Burnham on Crouch, where his father had been a Barge Dredger and Volunteer Fireman to Brixton, Surrey and Greenwich in 1881 where his father was a fireman.

Eventually the family had moved to Southampton where his father became the Superintendent of the Brigade and in 1891, the family can be found living at Bayale Close, Southampton.

His father dies on the 4th December 1900 and in the census of 1901 his brother Thomas is shown as the head of the household and his occupation is also shown as a fire man, Henry, who is 14 years of age, is shown as a ships steward.



On 26th September 1909 Henry marries Minnie Elizabeth Buckle in Southampton, however two years later he had moved to Stratford, and is living at 8 Victoria Street, Stratford.

By the outbreak of World War 1 he has moved to Gloucestershire, and on the 27th September 1914 his son Leonard Emile is born. Henry is still a fireman in the Fire Brigade at Gloucester. Henry has a further three children Marjorie Irene Elsie born in 1916, Frederick George Johnson born in 1919 and Henry Walter born in 1923.

By 29th September 1939 Henry has returned to West Ham and become Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.

By 1st January 1955 he has returned to Southampton and is living at 25 Shirley Avenue and later the same year on the 28th August he dies and probate goes to Minnie Elizabeth, his widow.

Landais Mathurin

Landais was born in 1861 in France, to Landais Mathurin who was a Customs House Officer.

It is not known when he came to England however by 1891 he is a lodger at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station in Glebe Road Bromley and his occupation is a Fireman in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

In 1892 he was a fireman who was highly commended for his actions at a fire at 89 Curtain Road, Shoreditch when he was in charge of a neighbourhood fire escape. On his arrival he immediately pitched the escape at the front of the house and with fireman Sherrington lost no time in ascending to the second floor even though the lower part of the house was well alight. Whilst searching the premises he found an insensible man and together with assistance from Fireman Baker he rescued the man, who was Thomas Edwards aged 43. Fireman Sherman who also entered the premises found an insensible woman who was also rescued with the help of Fireman Heather, The name of this person was Johanna Casey aged 68 years.

In 1891 he is a lodger at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station in Glebe Road Bromley and his occupation is a Fireman in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Later the same year he fathers a daughter, Florence Ellen, and on 3rd January 1893 he marries Ellen Susannah Harrison at the Parish Church of St George the Martyr, Southwark, London. At the time of his marriage he was a fireman stationed at Fire Station Southwark Bridge Road, London.

In 1895 he was resident in a service dwelling house at the Fire Engine House in Hermitage Street, in the borough of Paddington.

At the time of the census in 1901 he is still a fireman but is in an patient at West Ham Hospital. He is Hospital as a result of a fire at the West Ham Chemical works, when, together with Fireman

Howes they were working on the upper floor of a wooden building when it collapsed. They were thrown into a mass of burning material and Landais also received acid burns. Steps were taken to rescue the men and both were found to have severe burns. Landais was taken to West Ham hospital and detained and although found to be suffering from severe burns, it was not thought that his condition was serious. Howes remained at the fire scene until it was out and then went off duty sick. He did not attend hospital.

In 1901 his family has grown and he now has a son Edward 7 years of age and another daughter Louise 6 years of age.

By 1911 at the age of 50 and is living at 3 Emma Street, Silvertown. He is still a member of the Fire Brigade.

It is not known when he leaves the Fire Brigade but he dies in March 1924, when he was 63 years of age, in the West Ham District of Essex

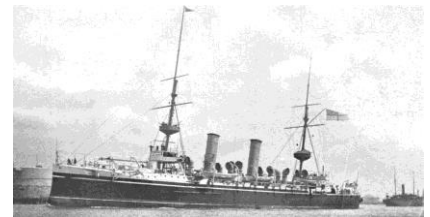
It is not known when he leaves the Fire Brigade but he dies in March 1924, when he was 63 years of age, in the West Ham District of Essex

Joseph William Forward

Joseph was born 1880 to Henry J Forward a Brewers Labourer and Mary E. nee Cox. At the time of his birth he had two elder brothers, George aged 6 and Henry aged 2 and the family were living at 35 Charlotte Street, Southwark. By 1891 the family has grown and John has three younger brothers William C, Thomas P. And Frederick J. and a sister Sarah L. His father has become a grocer and the family have two lodgers Edward Cripps and William Haggar. The family have moved address and residing at 39 Sumner Road, Camberwell.

By 1901, Joseph has joined the Royal Navy and in this a year he is posted to HMS Minerva.

At the 1901 Census of England and Wales she was recorded as being at Gibraltar with the Training Squadron indeed the census does show Joseph in Gibraltar on this date and his rank was ordinary seaman.



HMS Minerva

By 1907 he has left the Royal Navy and has become a Fireman with the West Ham Fire brigade, when he marries Ann Elizabeth Dykes who is 25 at the Church of St Paul, Greenwich. On the wedding banns his father's occupation is now shown as a Brewer.

By 1911 he has moved to 6 Agnes Street, North Woolwich Road, Silvertown and has a daughter Alice who is 2 years of age.

In 1914 he attends a fire at the premises of a confectioners shop in Barking Road Canning Town, where two girls Beatrice Phillips a 18 year old and Daisy Phillips aged 11 were suffocated. Joseph is overcome by heat and fell from the escape ladder on to the pavement and was seriously injured. At the inquest on the girls a P.C. Bailey described how he saw Joseph go up the escape and put his hand through the flames to rescue one of the girls, however he slipped and fell. Despite research it is not known what injuries Joseph received. The cause of the fire was decided by the Coroner's Jury was discarding of a match by the father.

Joseph does not appear to enlist in the armed services at the outbreak of World War 1 but remains with the Fire Brigade.

Joseph dies on the 9th July 1932 whilst an inpatient at Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford, Essex His address at the time of his death was 159 Prince Regents Lane, Plaistow, with his effects going to his widow Annie Elizabeth Forward.

Richard Henry Holliday

Richard was born in 1877 and was baptised on the 16 July 1877 in Norwich, Norfolk. His father was Edward Francis Holliday, a Mariner and his wife Sarah Susanna nee Everitt. He had 5 elder siblings, Mary A, Thomas, Elizabeth, John and Susanna. By 1881 the family are living in the High Street, Blakeney, Norfolk

By 1891 some of the family are still living in the High Street, Blackeny however his mother Susanna has died and his father Edward is paralysed. His elder sister Susanna has now become the housekeeper for the family. The rest of the family have departed from the family home.

In 1905 he marries Emily Sarah Reynolds in West Ham, Essex and by 1911 he has moved to 12 Victoria Street, West Ham, Essex and he has become a fireman in the Fire Brigade. Richard has one son Richard J.

It is not known when Richard leaves the Fire Brigade, however it is known that he became a fire Inspector.

On the 27 June 1950 his wife Emily of 27 West Valley Road, Hemel Hempstead, dies at 17 Paradise, Hemel Hempstead and her effects went to Richard, a retired Fire Inspector.

There is very little further that can be found about the rest of Richard's life except that it is believed that he died In June 1966 in Hemel Hempstead.

William Richard Harmsworth

William was born in 1860 to Charles W Harmsworth and his wife nee Beckett, in Stratford, Essex and at the time of his birth the family are living at 1 China Road, West Ham. He has one elder sibling Henry who is 2 yrs old. By 1871 the family have moved to 28 High Street, West Ham and

his father Charles is a Carman. William has four younger siblings, Sarah, Eliza, Edwin and Thomas.

Ten years later in 1881 the family has increased by 3 more boys, Frederick, Alfred and Charles and has moved to 36 High Street, Stratford. William's occupation is shown in the census as a Carman, like his father.

By 1901 he is married to Charlotte and has three daughters, Florence, Maud and Lillian V. William has become a fireman with the fire brigade. At this time the family are living at 26 Victoria Street, West Ham. Ten years later in 1911, William is still living at the same address and is still a fireman in the West Ham Fire Brigade.

It is not known when he left the Brigade, but it is known that William dies on the 25 June 1947 whilst living at 100 Heigham Road, East Ham with probate going to Maud Ethel Beckett and Gladys May Harmsworth, spinster. Effects to the value of £1445 12s 4d.

Samuel Scott Betts

Samuel was born in 1859 to Samuel Coppen Betts, a Master Mariner, and Jane his wife, in Rotterdam, Holland and by 1861 he is living at 110, Garl Street, Great Yarmouth. He has two elder sisters, Elizabeth Ellen and Maria. In April 1870, his father Samuel Coppen Betts dies in Great Yarmouth.

On 18th September 1873, at the age of 15, he becomes an apprentice in the Merchant Navy and is indentured in Yarmouth to GG Wright of the ship Lotus. Six years later in 1879, at the age of 21 years, he marries Mary Ann Betts Lawrence at the Parish Church of St Margaret, Lowestoft, Suffolk, and by 1881 he can be found living in South Belle Road, Gorleston, Yarmouth and his occupation is a butcher. He has one daughter, Gertrude, and his sister-in-law, Eliza Lawrence who is 15 is living with the family.

By 1891 he has moved to Woodstock Road, West Ham and has become a fireman in the West Ham Fire Brigade. His family has grown and he now has 5 further children, Rose Blanche, Samuel Lawrence, Edward Charles, Arthur Joseph and Thomas Robert. By 1901 he has 3 further children, Lawrence F, Frederick J and Ada, and has moved to 12, Victoria Street, West Ham. Henry is still a Fireman in the local Brigade of West Ham. By 1908 Samuel has become a Station Officer as on 1st September 1908, Samuel joins the Henley Lodge of the Masonic Organisation and his occupation is shown as Station Officer, and his address is shown as the Fire Station, Silvertown. It is not known when but three of his children have died by the 1911 Census, Samuel is still posted to Silvertown Fire station situated on North Woolwich Road.

Between 1911 and 1917 he has another daughter, who unfortunately is killed, in the Silvertown Explosion and whose funeral took place with that of Sub Officer Vickers, Fireman Sell and Winifred Sell.

Friday 19th January 1917 was a day which would have devastating consequences for the Betts family. At 6.52 pm. a blast occurred at a munitions factory that was manufacturing explosives for Britain's World War I military effort. Approximately 50 tons of trinitrotoluene (TNT) exploded, killing

73 people and injuring 400 more, as well as causing substantial damage in the local area. A fire broke out in the melt-pot room, and efforts to put it out were under way when the TNT exploded. Seventy-three people were killed, and more than 400 injured. Up to 70,000 properties were damaged, 900 nearby ones destroyed or unsalvageable damaged, including to the Silvertown Fire

Station at which Samuel was based.



The damage caused by the explosion was extremely severe, the factory was destroyed and houses for a great distance were damaged, some beyond repair. Among the injured were an number of fireman as well as police officers and factory workers and their families.

On the 26th January 1917, Samuel was shown a photograph which he had identified as that of his wife, who was 68 years of age. His wife was working in the kitchen at the Fire Station at the time of the explosion, together with two of his daughters, who were injured.

At the reopened inquest into the deaths of the victims on the the February 1917 Sergeant Randall told the Coroner that he saw the bodies of Firemen Sells and Vickers. Both had been blown through a fence. A part of the head of one had been blown off and close by was Fireman Betts , who was badly injured and removed to hospital. Samuel appeared to give evidence with his head swathed in bandages. He stated that they had got the call about two minutes before seven o'clock. He went out at once with the engine and found the burning buildings well alight. Sells and Vickers were at his side at the engine and five minutes after their arrival the explosion occurred . He remembered nothing more.

On 28th June 1918 Samuel received the Kings Police Medal from the Earl of Warwick, the Lord Lieutenant of the county and the Town Council medal from the Mayor (Col. Will Thorne M.P.) of West Ham. The medals were presented for gallantry at the Silvertown Explosion.

Samuel dies on the 28th January 1922, whilst living at 14, Sebert Road, Forest Gate, Essex, with probate going to his son Lawrence Francis Betts, a municipal officer.

George Walter Gee

George was born in 1877 in Rochester in Kent to William, a lighterman and his wife Maria nee Perkins Brown. At the time of his birth he had six elder siblings, Alfred, James, Arthur, Carrey, Charles and Lizzie.

On 3rd February 1880, William, his father died at St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth with probate going to his wife Maria. By 1881 the family are living at 3, Allens Square Common, High Street, Rochester. His mother Maria is not working but his three eldest brothers, Alfred, James and Arthur have become lightermen like their father. Ten years later George is 14 and the census shows that he is the only child living at home with his mother.

In 1901 the census shows that George is a lodger in Bond Street and has become a fireman with the Great Eastern Railway Company Brigade. In 1902 he marries Fairy Bassam in the West Ham registration district.

By 1911 he has become a fireman with the West Ham Fire Brigade and is living at 37 Lett Road, Stratford and he has one son George Alfred who is 6 years of age.

It is not known when he leaves the Brigade, but it is known that he went back to Kent and had become a publican of The Lamb, Ifield Terrace, Greenhithe, Kent, where he dies on the 15th June 1944, with administration going to Fairy Gee his widow.

Albert Edward Peskett

Albert was born on 17th June 1870 at St Georges, Hanover Square, London to Edmund Billingham Peskett a carpenter and Elizabeth Jane nee Outen. At the time of his birth he has one elder brother Edward. In 1881 the family are living at 10, Gordon Grove, Lambeth, and his elder brother is a Telegraph Messenger and Albert is a scholar. The following year his father Edmund dies in September in Lambeth, London



Albert Edward Peskett

By 1899, when he marries Maria Jarvis at St Saviours Church, Lambeth, Albert has already become a Fireman in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and he is residing at 171 Great Portland Street.

In 1900 his first child, a daughter, Edith Elizabeth is born in Islington.

In 1902 Albert moves to West Ham Fire Brigade, and in June of that year his son Albert Edmund Billingham is born and three years later his daughter Ivy May is born. In 1907 William Edward is born, followed in 1909 by Leslie George.

In 1911 the family are living at 30 Emma Street, Silvertown and Albert is still a member of the West Ham County Borough Fire Brigade. A year before the outbreak of World War 1, on 23rd May 1913 he has another son John James. It is not known when he left the Fire Brigade, but sometime after the outbreak of War he joins the Mercantile Marine and at the conclusion of the War he is awarded the Mercantile Campaign medal. It does not appear that he rejoins the Brigade.

In 1923 Albert's mother dies in Havant Hampshire. Ten years later in 1933 his first born daughter Edith Elizabeth dies at the age of 33 yrs in West Ham, Essex.

In 1942 his wife Maria dies in Ilford and in June 1957 Albert dies in Essex.

Herbert John Smith

Herbert was born in Limehouse, London in 1881 to William Smith, a Carman and Sarah Jane Smith nee Jones. He was baptised on 28th October 1883 at St. Dunstan and All Saints, Tower Hamlets, London.

By 1891 he is living at 13 Mark Road, Ratcliff. London with his parents and two younger sisters Louisa and Mable.

Ten years later he is still living with his parents but the family have moved to 22 Canal Road Mile End, Old Town and he is a Laundry worker

A short time later he joined Hw Metropolitan Fire Brigade and on 18th May 1904 he marries Lilian Mary Ann Reader at Holy Trinity, Mile End Old Town, Tower Hamlets, London.

By 1911 he has moved to the West Ham Borough Fire Brigade and he is the coachman for the Brigade. He is living at the Fire Station, Barking Road, Canning Town and he has three children, Hilda, Louisa and Edward.

It is not known when Herbert leaves the Brigade but he does eventually move to Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, where he dies in Dec 1972. However he was buried in Epsom cemetery, Epsom Surrey. He was survived by his wife and three children.

Henry Samuel Gear.

Henry was born On 29th October 1864 in Colyton, Devon.

In 1880 at the age of 16 he joined the Royal Navy as a boy seaman, his service number being 112980. On joining, he was described as being 5ft 4 inches in height and has hazel eyes and a fair complexion. On 13th September 1880 he is posted to HMS. Impregnable until July 1882 when he was transferred to HMS Alexandria from 1st July to 29th October at which time he is an Ordinary seaman.

Between 15th November 1882 and 20 June 1883 he was an able seaman aboard HMS Duke of Wellington when he was posted to HMS Cruiser but 21st Jun 83 and 23 Jan 1884 and then he is appointed to HMS Alexandria, and later HMS Cruiser again.

He also serves on several ships including HMS Excellent and HMS Dreadnought and he finishes his service as a leading seaman aboard HMS Cruiser on 11 August 1889.

By 1891 he joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and is stationed at Islington and in 1896 he has moved to Southwark Fire Station. In 1901 he is married to Elizabeth and has moved to the West Ham Fire Brigade and has a daughter Elizabeth aged 9. Later in the same year he is appointed the Superintendent of the Middlesborough Fire Brigade.

By 1909 he has become the Superintendent of the Beckenham Fire Brigade, as in that year he attends a fire at 156 Croydon Road, Beckenham, with one Fireman. They attend on cycles carrying a hand pump and axes and found the fire was behind the fireplace, and about 3 ft of wainscoting had to be cut away before it could be put out.

He remains in the fire brigade throughout World war 1.

In 1926 Supt Gear of the Beckenham Fire Brigade submitted a report urging the need for reorganisation and stating that on account of under-staffing he had not had a holiday for 20 Years.

Henry dies on 13 July 1929 whilst staying at 19 Athelstan Road, Margate, Kent, his home address being 1 Downs Road, Beckenham. Probate went to his wife Elizabeth and daughter Elizabeth Ellen Marquis.

Edward Scott

Edward Scott was born in 1863 in Maldon, Essex to George Scott, an engine driver in a water mill and Hannah Scott nee Smith. At the time of his birth he has one elder brother, William, and by 1871. He has three younger siblings, Jane, Charles and Ernest. Ten years later Edward is still living with his parents in Spital Road, Maldon and by this time he has become a Mariner. In 1883 Charles, his brother, dies in Maldon and five years later in 1888 Edward marries Elizabethan Mary Fenn.

By 1891 Edward and his wife Elizabeth have two children Edward Arthur and Eve Elizabeth. The family are living at 8 Emma Street, West Ham and his occupation is a Fireman in the West Ham Borough Fire Brigade.

In 1901 he has moved to 10 Victoria Street, West Ham and 10 years later he has again moved to 189 Balaam Street, Plaistow.

In 1906 Edward gives evidence at the inquest of 6 victims of a fatal fire in Channelsea Road, Stratford, when Henry Hennell, a rope maker and his wife, four daughters and his mother in law, were killed. Fireman Scott stated that all attempts to enter the building were futile. After the fire had been brought under control, he had entered the building and found Mr and Mrs Hennell on the floor, one girl lying on the bed and two others were on a chair bedstead. They had all been suffocated.

Edward does not appear to have enlisted in the armed services during World War 1 but would appear to have remained in the Fire Brigade.

After the war he retires from the Fire Brigade and returns to Maldon, where in 1924 he is elected honorary secretary of the Maldon Motor Cycling club.

In 1939 he is living at 90 Mill Road, Maldon Ten years later in 1949 Edward Scott dies at the residence of his daughter in Ilford, with the burial taking place in Maldon.

West Mersea

Horace William Whiting

Horace was born on 22nd July 1893 in West Mersea to William, a coal carter and Keziah nee Hardy. By 1901 the family have moved to Hadleigh St Mary in South Suffolk. He has no siblings at this date. However by 1911 the family have moved back to West Mersea and are living at Nr. Schools, West Mersea. The family have now another son, Oscar, who is 5 years of age. Horace who is now 17 has become a bricklayer's labourer.

He was living with his parents in Barfield Road between 1918 and 1931

It is not known when Horace joined the volunteer Fire Brigade on the Island but there is a photograph taken circa 1929 showing Horace, together with several other firemen held at the Owen Fletcher Collection at the Mersea Museum (Image ID FL04_033_002 in Album 4.)

In 1931 he was part of the Volunteer Fire Brigade when they raised £11.00 towards the cost of their purchase of their own helmets.

By May 1931 Horace had become Chief Officer of the Volunteer Fire Brigade when he attends the West Mersea Water Works with the hand apparatus in order to attempt to put out a fire which had occurred there. Unfortunately the fire was fed by the content of the oil tanks, which contained two tons of crude oil. and although assistance was obtained from the Colchester Fire Brigade, the interior was gutted by the fire and the machinery was destroyed. On Friday 2nd December 1932 he attended at a fire in Coast Road, West Mersea when it was found that the motor boat 'Frebelle', a 47 tonner owned by Captain H.J.Hines of Aldham Hall was burning. The brigade prevented the fire from spreading to other house-boats although the 'Frebelle' was seriously damaged.

On 13th July 1932, Charles W.A. Scott who had achieved the England to Australia Flight record, was feted at Mersea and the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, led by Horace, hauled



Captain Horace Whiting



Mersea Volunteer Fire Brigade December 1932 led by Horace Whiting, pulling C.W.A. Scott (seated in Model Aircraft) after his England to Australia record flight (Photo Essex Fire Brigade Fire Museum)

him aboard a model aircraft, around the Peace Memorial ground in Mersea, and later the model aircraft with Mr Scott aboard was hauled through the streets to the Hall Barn where in the evening a dinner was given in his honour.

It is not known when Horace left the Brigade but he dies on 17 February 1974 whilst living at 46 Melrose Road, West Mersea

West Thurrock

William Henry Dansie

William was born in 1887 in West Thurrock to George and Alice. His father was a carpenter and was 28 when his son was born and Alice his mother was 26, her maiden name being Wiffen. William had one brother Arthur who was 3 months in 1891.

By 1901 he has two further siblings Alice aged 7 and Alfred aged 5ps.. His father is still a carpenter and William is a clerk at the age of 14yrs and the family is living at 49 West Street, South Stifford, Essex.

Ten years later in 1911, the family have moved to 1, Dahlia Terrace, west Thurrock and William has become a Servant /General Labourer.

In 1905 William is a member of the West Thurrock Cycling Club and receives a prize for attending 24 Cycle Runs which had been fully carried out to places in Essex and Kent.

By 1907 he has become a member of the West Thurrock Fire Brigade as he attends a church parade.

In World War One, there are no records relating to the enlistment or service record of William Henry Dansie, however there is a record held in the WWI Service medal and Award Rolls 1914-1920, which shows that during World War 1 William Henry Dansie served in the Machine Gun Corps and was awarded the British war medal and Victory medal, and his service number 160211, his rank being a private.

William Henry dies on 23 Jan 1934 at Orsett Lodge, Orsett, Essex. His address at the time of his death was 35 Hathaway Road Grays.

Witham

Walter Philip Perkins

Waller was born in 1858 in Brampton, Oxfordshire to James, a farmer and Sarah and has three elder brothers, Walter James Edward, Albert Edward, Frederick John and a sister Rosa Sarah. In 1861 he is living with his family in Llandindrod, Radnorshire, his father being a farmer of 120 Acres. In 1871 the family are still living on the farm with Walter being a scholar.

In 1881 he is a surveyor with the Ordnance Survey and is a lodger in Cumberwood, Tirey, Gloucestershire. In 1882 he marries Clara Augusta Fisher and in 1891 he is living in Reigate, Surrey and has three sons Walter J., Frederick P, and Edward A. and his occupation is still an Ordnance Survey surveyor.

By 1897 Walter has moved to Witham and has become the surveyor to the Witham Urban District council. In 1901 he is living in Collingwood Road with Clara his wife and two sons Walter and Edward. By 1906 he has become the Captain of the Witham Volunteer Fire Brigade and of which he remains in charge of throughout the war until he resigns in 1926.

In 1907, the Chelmsford Chronicle reports that the Witham Volunteer Fire Brigade had resigned. Mr Bindon Blood, clerk to the council read the following from Mr W P Perkins, Chief Officer:
"I have to report that at a meeting of the fire Brigade held on May 11, it was proposed by one of the oldest members "That the Brigade resign in a body for the purpose of re-opening their grievance as to uniforms and boots as this appeared to be the only thing to be done to get their case reconsidered. The proposition, being seconded, was put to the meeting and carried unanimously. As there was no desire to rush the matter, it was decided the resignations should date from today (Monday 27th May 1907) and take effect on 29th June, thus giving the council two meetings at which to discuss the question if they wished to do So I therefore append the resignations in their proper order. After discussion, it was agreed that a sum of £20.00 be given to supply new uniforms and the council moved that the men be asked to reconsider the question of their resignation.

This they obviously did as Capt. Perkins remains in charge of the Brigade.

In 1911 he and Clara are living at Trevethan Collingwood Road, Witham, his two Sons having left home. He has a daughter Mamie Rose. During World War I both his sons hold the rank of Major in the Army.

In March 1920 his wife Clara dies and a year later in 1921 he marries Lucy Bradshaw

Walter dies on 8th April 1939 and at the time of his death he is living at 25 Collingwood Road, Witham and probate is given to Lucy Perkins and Many Rose Perkins.

Charles Driver

Charles drive was born in 1887 in Witham, his father James, was a Carpenter and his mother was Annie. By the 1891 Census he had 4 Siblings, Alice, Ethel, Fred and Arthur and can be found living Bridge Street, Witham

Charles was a very active and sporty person and was named on several occasions between 1904, when he was elected vice captain of Witham Albion Football Club, to at least 1907, and can be found playing for Witham against such teams as Bocking (a friendly) and league matches against Heybridge (twice) , the Warren (Woodham) and many others.

By the 1911 Census, the Driver family have moved to Mill Road, Witham. and Charles has become a coach painter, and it is believed, has joined the Witham Fire Brigade. The exact date he joined is not known, as the records of this brigade have either been destroyed or lost. However it is know that he was a member of the Brigade on the 14th February 1913 as he takes part in the fireman's dinner.

He is a good singer as he is involved in a number of concerts, several of which are in connection with the Conservative and Unionist Association, as far away as Maldon. He is obviously a family orientated person as he misses a concert in 1914 when he misses the annual dinner of the Essex (Fortress Engineers) Royal Engineers at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, because of his brother's serious illness.

After the outbreak of War, he joins the 5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment with a regiment number of 2238, and serves overseas during which he is awarded the Military Medal. The Military Medal was a level 3 Gallantry Medal which was established during the First World War to recognise personnel of the British Army and other services and personnel of Commonwealth countries, below commissioned rank. It was the other ranks equivalent to the Military Cross (which was awarded to Commissioned Officers and rarely to Warrant Officers, who could also be awarded the MM). It was awarded for "Acts of gallantry, and devotion under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal.(Forces War Records)

Charles later transfers to the Gloucestershire Regiment and is serving with this Regiment in France, when he is Killed in Action.

Henry William Perry Porter

Henry was born in 1886 to James Porter, a Plumber and Olive nee Perry. In 1891 he is living with his parents and his two elder sisters, Olivia and Agnes in the High Street, Witham. By 1901 he and his family have moved to Newlines Street, Witham, and his occupation is shown as the same

as his father James, that being a Plumber, Painter and Glazier. In 1911 he is still living with his parents, his occupation being shown as a House Painter. His father, James, had joined the Witham Fire Brigade in 1889 and had served as a private in the Tenth Essex Volunteers under Ensign Bindon Blood. Henry also joins the Witham Fire Brigade as evidenced by a newspaper report on 4th March 1927, in the Chelmsford Chronicle regarding the celebration of the Golden Wedding of James and Olive.

In 1914 Henry marries Kathleen Matilda Butcher at Braintree, but remains living in Witham.

At the outbreak of World War 1 Henry joins the 1st Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, his regimental number being P/46892 and is eventually promoted to Lance Corporal.

The 1st Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers were, prior to the outbreak of war stationed at Portsmouth as part of the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Division.

On the 14th August they were mobilised for war and landed at Le Havre as part of the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including; in 1914 The Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat, The Battle of Le Cateau, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, The Battles of La Bassée and Messines 1914, First Battle of Ypres.

In 1915 they undertook Winter Operations including The First Attack on Bellewaarde, The Actions of Hooge and The Second Attack on Bellewaarde. In 1916, the battalion was involved in The Actions of the Bluff and St Eloi Craters, The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Bazentin, The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of the Ancre. and in 1917 The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Second Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Arleux, The Third Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of the Menin Road, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Cambrai 1917 which commenced on the 20th November, the day that Henry was killed. He has no known grave and is remembered on the memorial at Arras.

After his death his wife received a sympathetic letter from Lieutenant L.A. Coverall, which is reported in the Chelmsford Chronicle of the 25th January 1918, in which he writes *"Your husband was one of the best loved and respected members in the battalion. He could be trusted to carry out any duty without grumbling. After the battle on the 20th November when his platoon officer was killed, your husband would go to find his body, but he was far too brave made the supreme sacrifice. I can assure you my brother officers join me in my great sympathy for you."*

James Porter

James was born in Witham in 1853 to William, a gardener and Theresa and at the time of his birth he had two elder brothers, William and Richard and by 1861 When James Was 8 he had two younger brothers Joseph and David. At this time he was living in Maldon Road.



On 25 February 1877 he married Olivia Mary Perry at St Nicholas, Plumstead, Greenwich and by 1881 he was living in Maldon Road, his occupation is a plumber and he has two daughters Olivia and Agnes.

On Saturday 6th August 1881 James was working in a well at Hungry Hall, a pair of quartering against which the ladder broke and he lost his hold and fell to the bottom of the well. He was rescued by two fellow workers Cornwall and Redgrave and conveyed home. H was badly bruised, but no bones were broken.

In 1890 James was an exhibitor at an art loan exhibition and sale of work held at Witham

In 1891 the family have moved to the High Street, Witham. His occupation is still a plumber and he has a young boy Henry W.

By 1901 the family have moved to Newlands Street and James's occupation is shown as a plumber painter and glazier.

James has become a member of the Witham Fire Brigade as he is one of the first to attend with the fire Engine at a Flour Mill fire with James Gamble and W Kentfield.

In 1911 James is still living in Newlands Street and his son Henry is a painter.

In January 1918 his son Henry William Perry Porter was killed. He was also a former fireman at Witham who is mentioned elsewhere in this work.

In 1927 he celebrates his golden wedding, unfortunately a year later Olivia May, his wife dies and her funeral takes place on Saturday 7 July 1928 at All Saints Church.

It is not known when James dies.

Walter Wager

Walter was born in Little Totham, Essex in 1857 to William, a Beer House Keeper, and Sarah. He had 3 siblings, Herbert, Ellen and William. In 1871 at the age of 14 he was apprenticed to Thomas Bruce of Hall Road, Southminster, Essex and it was in Southminster he met his wife to be, Sarah Florence Stammers, whom he married on 1880. Upon he is marriage he moves to Witham and in 1881 the census shows him living at 33 Bridge Street "Faragon Ter" in Witham. By 1891 he had

two children Frank aged 9 years and Daisy aged 4 and by the census of 1901 he has another child Isabel.

In 1904 he joins the Witham Fire Brigade and remains a member of the Brigade for over 30 years.

He founds his own firm in Witham, W Wager and Sons which is a plumber and decorators and which remains in the family until the death of his wife in 1924, when he sells the business.

Because of his age he does not join the armed services at the outbreak of World War 1 but remains in the Fire Brigade.

In 1922 his son Frank dies at the age of 40 and 4 years later in 1926 his wife Sarah dies at the age of 75.

On 16th May 1934 Walter dies whilst living at 71 Braintree Road, Witham, leaving an estate of nearly £1700 to his two daughters.

William Kentfield

Born in 1854 in Witham to Edward Kentfield a plumber and painter, and Sarah nee Horth who lived in Newland Street, Witham At the time of his birth he had five elder siblings Edward, Jane Matilda, Sarah, and Emily By 1871 William is still living with his family and has become a Plumber and Painter, like his father and brother Edward. A year later his mother Sarah dies and on 22 April 1876 William marries Georgiana Groves at Witham In 1881 William can be found. living a 2 Row cottages, Witham and has 2 daughters Anna and Rose and his father Edward who has retired 15 also living with family.

In his early days William was very much involved in Football, playing on the wings, for Witham FC. for which he was a member of the committee.. He also played in goal for Kelvedon FC

In 1907 William appears with W. P. Perkins, Superintendent of the Fire Brigade and J. Porter, also a member of the Brigade, who told the council that Brigade had been invited to compete for a Challenge Vase at Halstead on Whit Monday. Whilst they were keen to participate they had not the necessary undress uniform. They would pay for other expenses themselves. The uniforms possessed by the firemen were supplied ten years ago; Some had the fireman s boots ; others had overalls and trousers that were cut away at the knee. Mr Kentfeld said the trousers and jackets which were known as "White Ducks" were nothing but little pieces of calico and that the boots were never really watertight. Some members could not get the boots on at all and therefore when there was a fire they had to go in their own boots. New Uniforms were a necessity apart from the competition. After an animated discussion Mr Q. D. Greatrex moved that the council did not feel itself in a position to spend £40. 00 on fire brigade uniforms and the matter should be adjourned until the town's finances were in better condition and this carried.

By 1911 William and his family have moved to 7 Easton Road Witham, and his occupation is shown in the census of that year as a Painter and Glazier. His family now consists of Georgianna, his wife, Rose, Thomas Henry, Harold and Margaret.

By 1912 William has become Vice captain of the Witham Fire Brigade and his son Thomas is also a member of the Brigade.

During World War 1 he remains with the Witham Fire Brigade and does not enlist due to age.

William dies in June 1925

Charles Edward Richards

Charles was born on 22nd October 1880 in Witham to William G Richards, a joiner, and his wife Maria nee Payne. He had two elder siblings Harry W and Anna M and the family lived at 7 Mill Field Terrace, Witham. By 1891 the family had moved to Chipping Hill, Witham and his father has become a builder. By this time he has a younger sister Bertha M.

Seven years later his father, William, dies on 30th July 1888 in Essex with probate of £624 1s 5d going to his widow Maria. By 1901 Charles has become a carpenter and Harry, his elder brother has become a builder. His mother Maria is shown as living on her own means in the 1901 Census. On 17th January 1902 Charles joins the Essex Imperial Yeomanry as Trooper 278 and remains in the service until 16th Jan 1905..

In 1911 Charles's occupation is shown in the census as a builder and he is living in Church Street, Witham with his Mother, Harry and Bertha. On 23rd September 1911 he marries Edith Alberta Gaymer at Christ Church, Crouch End, Haringey, England.

By 14th February 1913 Charles has become a member of the Witham Volunteer Fire Brigade. It is not known when he leaves the brigade by on 28th May 1917, Charles who has been a member of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve with a number of Y18645, joins the Navy with a regimental number F29745. At this time he was 5ft 6 3/4 inches in height with a chest measurement of 35 inches and he had dark brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. Between the 28th May 1917 and 4 August 1917 he was posted to HMS President II Crystal Palace and was an acting Air Mechanic Class 1 and between 5th August 1917 and 31st March 1918 he was posted to Battersea.

On 1st April 1918 he became a member of the Royal Air Force when the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps joined together where he became an Air Mechanic Class 2.

On 4th March 1919 he was transferred to RAF reserve and was deemed discharged on 30th April 1920.

After the War Charles does not rejoin the Fire Brigade but continues as a builder and eventually in becomes a Councillor of note in Witham, where he remains throughout his life, eventually dying at the age of 92 in 1972 at Litmans, 14 Avenue Road, Witham.

Woodford

Frederick Charles Kimber

Born in 1877 in Whitechapel, London to John Kimber (a Corn Dealer) and Mary. He was the youngest of 5, his four siblings being, Minnie, Arthur, Edward and Florence. and at this date the family was living at 59 High Street, Whitechapel.

For the next 23 years he lives at the same address with his family until 1904 when he marries Eveline Blanche Shearing at Mile End Old Town, London.

In 1911 he has moved to 'Hildane' Malmesbury Road, Woodford and he is a Cashier working for the Australian Produce Brokers and at this time he has a daughter of 4 years Marjorie Eveline.

By 1913 he has become a volunteer fireman with the Woodford Brigade. He dies in 1963 whilst at the Invalid and Crippled Children's Hospital, Plaistow, whilst living at 64 Khartoum Road, Ilford.

Thomas Daniel Matthews

Thomas was born in 1881 in London, England.

In 1910 he joins the Woodford Volunteer Fire Brigade and in 1911 he is living with his wife Mary and 5 children, Gertrude Mary 6 yrs, Mary Ellen 4yrs John Patrick 2yrs and Thomas Ramson 6 mths. By 1915 he has another child Sarah Louise May and his occupation is a Gardener.

At the outbreak of World War 1 he does not enlist immediately but on 20 January 1915 he enlists in the 3rd Battalion of the Leinster Regiment. At this time he was 34 yrs of age and 5ft 9ins in height. He had a chest measurement of 37ins fully expanded and has a Scar on his left wrist and indistinct tattoo marks on his left forearm. His regimental number was 4155.

In Cork on April 8th 1915 he was Absent from Roll Call from 9-15pm until 3pm on 11th April 1915. For this absence he was fined 4 days pay and 5 Days confined to barracks on 12 April 1915 by Lt. Col. Canning

He is still in Cork on 27 January 1917 when he applies for transfer to Military Foot Police. His commanding officer has no objection to his being transferred and on the 2nd February 1917 he becomes a member of the Military Foot Police. He serves all his enlistment in the United Kingdom and on the 7 Sept 1919 he is transferred to Army Reserve Z and demobilised.

After the war he returns to Woodford Fire Brigade and in January 1921 at the age of 40 he dies. His funeral, with full brigade honours, and is held at St Patrick's Cemetery, Leytonstone. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack on which rested his axe and helmet and was conveyed to the graveside on the Woodford motor Fire Engine.

Edgar Harry Chinnery

Born in 1874 to Charles W Chinnery (a plumber) and Ellen nee Noble. In 1881 he is living with his family at 5 Fullers Road, Woodford.

In 1898 he marries Beatrice Elizabeth Bellham at St John of Jerusalem in South Hackney and in 1901 he is living at 1 Granville Terrace, Granville Road, Woodford and has a son, Charles Sidney Andrew. In 1911 he has moved to Fern Cottage, Woodville Road ,South Woodford. In 1913 he is known to be a fireman in the Woodford Volunteer Fire Brigade (Information at Essex Fire Museum) and by this time he has another son, Robert William. His occupation is a Plumber.

At the outbreak of World War 1, he does not join up immediately but on the 5th June 1916 he enlists into the Labour Corps, his regimental number being 365646 .On 5th December 1917 he is discharged from the Labour Corps under King Regulations 392 (XVI) being no longer fit for war service and is awarded a Silver Badge number B141169.

It is not known if he rejoins the Brigade, however he dies in June 1942.

Works Fire Brigades

Hoffman Manufacturing Company

Edward Arthur Whybrow

Edward Arthur Whybrow was born in 1884 to Arthur W Whybrow (a bricklayer) and Harriet L Whybrow (nee Ginn). He was born in Chelmsford and by the census of 1901 he was second

eldest of 8 children, his siblings being, Annie 20 yrs, Albert 14 years, Bertie 11 years, Violet 8 years, Louisa 5 years, Stanley 2 years and Leslie 1 year, and was living at 7 Rainsford Road, Chelmsford.

In 1902 at the age of 18 years and 4 months, he was a labourer when he enlisted into the Essex Regiment with the regimental number of 7407, at which time he was described as being 5ft 4ins in height, with a fresh complexion, dark eyes, dark hair and a mole on the back of his neck .He served at home until 19th April 1904 when he was posted to Malta. Unfortunately during this posting in 1903 he suffered from 2 bouts of Scabies from which he recovered. On 16th December 1904 he was awarded a good conduct badge, and on 14 September he was returned home.

Between the end of September 1905 to August 1914 he was placed on the reserve list, during which time, on the 26th April 1908 he was married to Annie Wilkinson, who in 1911 was in domestic service with Joseph Ward, a Master Painter. In August 1908 he had a child, Cecily Lorna and in 1910, a son Edward. He later had another son Frederick in 1916, who lived for only a year, dying in 1917.

On the 5th August 1914 he was mobilised at Warley and on the 7th August he was posted to the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment. He served with the expeditionary force in France from the 30th August 1914 to 27th November 1914 . On the 9th March 1915 he was discharged being no longer physically fit for war service (Reg.392 Kings Regulations) with Chronic Bronchitis. Upon being discharged he returned to Essex and joined Hoffman Manufacturing Company and was a member of the Hoffman Fire Brigade.

In March 1919 his wife Annie died leaving him to look after the two children, who at this time were 11yrs and 8 yrs.

On 6th December 1919 the following report was published in the Essex Newsman,

“On Monday 1st December 1919 the funeral of Edward Arthur Whybrow of Rainsford Road took place, whose death occurred at the age of 36 years. The deceased, who was a widower, was called up as a reservist at the out-break of war and took part in the Mons retreat. He was invalided out of the army in 1915 and returned to work with the Hoffman Manufacturing Company. He was a member of the Hoffman fire brigade and a keen supporter of the local branch of the National Federation of Ex Servicemen. He leaves two small children. The Reverend George conducted the last rites”

George Philip Hanchett.

George was born in 1883 in Upper Harling, Kent and in 1891 Census can be found living with his Grandparents, George and Harriet Hanchett and is living at 2 Formby Terrace, Haling By 1911 he is married to Edith and is living at 2 Rolphs Place, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford and has one daughter Florence, aged 1. His occupation was a Machinist. He eventually obtained employment in 1915 with Hoffman's Manufacturing company

and remain with this firm for 20 years, eventually becoming a charge hand and leading fireman in the Works Fire Brigade. He also took great interest in the athletic and social side of the firms activities.

He died in November 1935, having a widow and two married daughters.

William George Morris Pease.

William was born in 1878 in Witham, Essex to Thomas Pease, a farm labourer and his wife Clara nee Nunn and are living at "Victoria collages" 15 Hatfield Road, Witham. He has two elder brothers James W, and and Arthur.

By 1891 when William was 13 years of age, he is a farm labourer like his father. He now has two younger siblings, Edward aged 12 and Alice aged 10.

In 1899 he marries Mary Elizabeth Ashby and by 1901 he is living at 18 Reginia Road, Chelmsford and his occupation was a bricklayer and, has a child Lenard aged 3 months.

By 1911 he has moved to 35 New street, Chelmsford and his occupation is still a bricklayer but is now working for Hoffman's ball bearing works in Chelmsford. He has two further children, Cyril aged 7 and Gladys aged 2.

By 1914 William has become Captain of the Hoffmann fire Brigade and participates in a Tug of war with the Arc works, but his team is unfortunately beaten. The sports were held at the Arc works club Wood Street ground, Chelmsford.

At the outbreak of World War I he does not enlist in the Armed Services, but because of his work remains with Hoffmans', and continues in his role of bricklayer and fireman.

After the war in August 1920 he participates in the Hoffman Fire Brigade Competitions in which his team comes first. The competition consisted of a fixed fire hydrant and hose drill, which was very smartly performed and afterwards the members gave an exhibition drill.

William dies in September 1937 in Chelmsford.

Romford Brewery Fire Brigade

Henry John Dicks

Henry was the first child born in 1866 to Daniel Dicks, an Engineer and Fitter and his mother, Elizabeth Dicks nee Jackson. By 1871 he had two younger sisters, Annie who was three in 1871 and Rose who was 5 months and the family are living in St Andrews Road, Romford. Ten years later in 1881 the family have moved to 2 Queens Street, Romford. His father is still an engineer

fitter and at the age of 14 Henry has become a Millwright and Engineer. The family has grown and Henry has now four more younger sisters, Alice, Florence, Kate and Beatrice and one younger brother William F.

On 13th September 1885 his mother, Elizabeth, died at Queens Street, Romford and in September 1892, Henry marries Francis Miller. Two years later his daughter Lillian Dicks is born,



Stand Mason Steamer of Brewery Fire Brigade, capable of throwing a ton of water through a 1 inch nozzle to a height of 80 ft

followed in 1900 by his daughter Winifred Florence. In 1901 Henry is living at 27 Willow Street, Romford and his occupation is a Brewers Millwright employed by Romford Brewery and he has joined the Brewery Fire Brigade. Ten years later on 21st October 1904, Henry's father Daniel dies at the Romford Isolation Hospital.

By 1911 he has moved from 27 Willow Street to 48 Willow Street Romford and he is now a Brewers Engineer. Examination of the census form for 1911 shows that Henry and Francis had two further children who have died. He remains in the Brewery throughout World War 1 and after the war on Saturday 31st May 1924 the Romford Brewery fire brigade in the charge of H.J.Dicks take part in the carnival arranged to raise funds for a proposed new children's ward extension to the Romford Cottage Hospital

It is not known when Henry leaves the Brewery and consequently the Brewery Fire Brigade however it is known that he dies on 2nd July 1948 whilst living at 48 Willow Street, Romford with his effects going to his daughters Lillian and Winifred.

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