

The Survivors

We rightly make the fallen the main focus of our attention – but we also need to remember those who served and survived, especially the maimed and scarred, who all too often get overlooked.

Brington's historian, the late Dr Stephen Mattingly, wrote in his *Aspects of Brington* that "at least a hundred" men served, from Great and Little Brington, Nobottle and Althorp. He recorded that 85 Christmas parcels were despatched to "all men serving in His Majesty's Forces overseas" in 1917. He was able, after consulting older villagers over 1986-1989, to put names to all but five of the 67 faces in our Survivors Photograph of May 1921; another has been identified in 2016 in the course of this Project, leaving four unknown.

Dr Mattingly's estimate is correct, though he was unaware of the "Roll of Honour of men of this Parish who served in the War of 1914:", ie before the war ended - the only version of which to our knowledge is on a postcard acquired recently by a collector in Northampton, though presumably it was based on a more formal document of unknown provenance. The Roll was produced during the early months of the war and has 41 names on it, though as a measure of how difficult it must have been to compile such lists accurately, we know of at least one omission. As Dr Mattingly wrote, Will Hart of Manor House Farm, Little Brington, "In 1914 joined the 15th Hussars as a volunteer, as he had been used to horses all his life. After he was wounded, he transferred to the Mounted Police."

That brings our total at this time to 42, and of those the following 17 men from the 'Roll of Honour', plus Will Hart, survived but are absent from the 1921 Survivors Photograph:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Fred Brown | Albert Anderson | William Treadgold |
| Percy Brown | William Manning | Joseph Tuckey |
| Leonard Hunter | Rev Neville Martin | Ernest Williams |
| Fred Lowick | George Redley | Harry Wootton |
| Charles Lunn | Percy Smith | Arthur Redley |
| John Manning | Harry Treadgold | Will Hart (not shown in the Roll of Honour) |

It is possible some of these account for the four unnamed faces in the Survivors Photo, but without evidence there will remain an element of doubt on the exact figure. There are also numerous men missing from the photo; some, like Alec and Cecil Morley, must have moved away when their father left his position as Agent to Lord Spencer. Others like Will Hart would simply have missed the occasion, for many reasons

There is also Walter Chapman, who had left the Parish and is commemorated on the Northampton Borough War Memorial but who was born in Brington, to consider.

The best estimate we can therefore make of the total number of men from Brington Parish who served in the Great War is $28 + 67 + 17 + 1 + 2 + 1 \pm 4 = 112-120$. We can also conclude that roughly a quarter did not survive and that, on the law of military averages, at least a similar number were wounded.

Of the 67 in the Photograph, we know the names of all but four. The missing names are thought to be men who worked on the Althorp Estate and perhaps were less well known in the villages.

If YOU recognise any of the four unnamed faces, please let us know

The Roll of Honour is of interest because it shows information that was not known before it came to light during *The Bringtons Remember* project. It was probably produced in late 1914, or early 1915 at the latest. There is no mention of any deaths on the Roll and since the first fatal casualty - Lewis Manning - would have been known about by late September 1914, it is possible the Roll was produced as early as then. References to "3rd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment" relate to volunteers still under training, and there are several TA soldiers in the 4th Battalion who later transferred to Regular or other Territorial battalions.

After the war, Lord Spencer provided about twenty ex-servicemen with several acres of land each to farm, at Cedars Farm, Little Brington.

Twenty-two years after the end of the war, many of these men donned uniform again in the Brington Platoon, C Company, 9th (Brixworth) Battalion of the Northamptonshire Home Guard. The old soldier volunteers of 1940 were:

Sgt Sidney Dixey
Sgt Thomas Redley
Sgt Alfred Tarpley

Pte Louis Beard
Pte Charlie Moore
Pte Fred (Chad) Threadgold

Transcript of wartime Roll of Honour:

PARISH OF BRINGTON
ROLL OF HONOUR

Of Men of this Parish who served in the War of 1914:

Alfred Anderson Shoong Smith Royal Horse Artillery

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|---|--------------------|-------------|---|
| Tom Anderson | Lance Corporal | 7 th Batt Northants Regt | William Manning | Trooper | 3 rd T Royal Canadian Dragoons |
| Bertie Andrew | Private | 3 rd Batt Northants Regt | Rev Neville Martin | Chaplain | HMS Dominion |
| Percy Bailey | Major DSO | 12 th Lancers | John Morley | 2/Lt | 7 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Lewis Beard | Sergt-Tailor | 6 th Batt Northants Regt | Charles Redley | Private | 5 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Fred Brown | Private | 3 rd (Birmingham) Batt R Warwickshire Regt | George Redley | Private | 4 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Percy Brown | Private | Army Ordnance Corps | Robert Redley | Corporal | 4 th Batt Northants Regt |
| George Callow | Private | Coldstream Guards | Tom Redley | Private | 4 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Fred Childs | Trooper | Northants Yeomanry | Percy Smith | A/Seaman | HMS King Alfred |
| Albert Hawgood | Bugler | 4 th Batt Northants Regt | Ernest Stow | Corporal | 4 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Arthur Haynes | Private | 3 rd Batt Northants Regt | Alfred Tarpley | Gunner | Royal Garrison Artillery |
| Leonard Haynes | Private | 3 rd Batt Northants Regt | William Threadgold | Private | 4 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Leonard Hunter | Trooper | Northants Yeomanry | Harry Treadgold | Sergt-Baker | 6 th Division Army Service Corps |
| Fred Lantsbury | Private | 4 th Batt Northants Regt | William Treadgold | Gunner | Royal Field Artillery |
| Fred Lowick | Trooper | Northants Yeomanry | Joseph Tuckey | Private | 7 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Charles Lunn | Trooper | 12 th Lancers | Ernest Williams | Sergeant | 6 th Division Army Service Corps |
| Christopher Manning | Private | 1 st Batt Northants Regt | Harry Wootton | Corporal | 6 th Batt Rifle Brigade |
| Louis Manning | Private | 1 st Batt Northants Regt | Alfred Wykes | Sergeant | 4 th Batt Northants Regt |
| Walter George | Corporal | 4 th Batt Northants Regt | John Marriott | Private | 4 th Batt Northants Regt |
| John Manning | Private | 2 nd Canadian Horse | Arthur Redley | Gunner | Royal Field Artillery |
| Albert Anderson | Lance Corporal | King Edward's Horse | Harry Anderson | Trooper | King Edward's Horse |

Prisoners of war

At least four Brington men are known to have been made prisoners of war on the Western Front:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Pte John Haynes | Cheshire Regiment |
| Pte Leonard Haynes | 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment |
| William (Bill) Haynes | Northamptonshire Regiment (?) |
| Charlie Moore | |

John Haynes was captured in 1916, probably close to when his brother Archie was killed. Towards the end of the war, with Germany facing near-starvation:

“... he had almost forgotten how to eat. Eight men shared one loaf of bread. They had no blankets or beds and slept on the concrete floor. At the end, he had no shirt, socks or cap and only one boot.”

Our photograph taken of him with fellow POWs in April 1918 shows fit-looking men wearing issued POW uniforms. Conditions later deteriorated markedly.

It is probable that John and William were also in the same regiment although no records have been discovered for them. The family understands that Leonard, John and William were all taken prisoner and subsequently worked in factories in Germany. An interview with John Haynes recorded by Stephen Mattingly also records his period as a prisoner-of-war, and family members recall that he spoke of this time. At home, he spoke of his good fortune in surviving the war and especially the machine guns killing those on either side of him.

The author's uncle Arthur Cook, a Ravensthorpe farm boy, was wounded and taken prisoner in the German Spring Offensive of 1918, along with many others. It took him a year to recover in a Northampton hospital, as much as from starvation and neglect as from his injury, and he never walked well again. And the author's mother remembered limbless ex-Servicemen begging in the streets of Northampton as a common sight into the 1920s.

Some points of interest on the Survivors Photo:

Why are there hardly any medals on view?

Almost certainly because the Forces Medal Offices had not yet started to issue the great number of medals to which Servicemen were entitled. That was to follow shortly.

In fact there are two wearers of medals in the photograph. Mr Peatley (No1 front row) is wearing what appear to be his South African War medals. He does not appear in any World War One lists but was probably in the photo by virtue of being a veteran of that earlier conflict. He was not originally a Brington man but clearly stayed here for some time after the war: Betty Holman née Hawgood, age 90, remembers the village children calling him Peaty. The other wearer is Harry Harmsworth (No 2 fourth row) who is showing his 1915 Star unmounted and half hidden by his jacket. There are others who were entitled to the same medal – so was Harry just an early recipient? Did some men turn up without their medals, and the order given 'No Medals' for fairness sake, and Harry didn't hear or chose not to – perhaps for the sake of his brother George, who was killed in Palestine in 1917? We can only speculate on this little touch of history.

Why are some of them wearing badges in their left lapel?

There are six Silver War Badges awarded to those invalided out after injury or sickness due to war service – one in 10 of those present, but on military averages and considering the number who died, this is likely to be an under-representation.

Can you recognise the location?

Yes it's Brington School of course – totally unchanged, complete with open windows. (Have they ever been shut this last century?)