



MORTIMER WAR MEMORIAL
DEDICATED IN 1921
TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 – 1918
REDEDICATED IN 2000
TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN WORLD WAR TWO 1939 - 1945

INTRODUCTION

Major John F Kemp MBE, in 2004, presented Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council with the results of his researches into the names of those who died in both World Wars and are listed on the village War Memorial. He also included some information about those from Mortimer who died but are not named on the War Memorial. His document was bound by the Parish Council and since then has been in the reference section of Mortimer Library. The Parish Council in 2014 agreed to make this available online, as part of the Commemoration of the First World War. The format is as presented by Major Kemp, except that he included printed copies of the then current web pages from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission giving the casualty details and the accompanying certificate. These have been replaced by hyperlinks to the same pages.

CONTENTS

MORTIMER LET US NOT FORGET (an introduction by Major Kemp)

WORLD WAR TWO CASUALTY – Singapore Memorial (Major Kemp)

ROLL OF HONOUR 1914 - 1918

ROLL OF HONOUR 1939 – 1945

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

DETAILS

The Role of Honours 1914 – 1918 and 1939 – 1945 contain the names engraved on the Mortimer War Memorial.

The Role of Honours 1914 – 1918 There is an entry for each name, in alphabetical order as compiled by Major J F Kemp. The first paragraph is based on Mortimer Parish Records, where available. Additional information researched by Major Kent, mainly from military records, appears under the heading JFK. There are also entries for those who Major Kemp believed came from Mortimer but are not included on the War Memorial.

The Role of Honours 1939 – 1945 There is an entry for each name, but there is no information from parish or military records compiled in these cases.

After each name listed in both role of honours lists there is a hyperlink to the record held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on their website. At the end of each link is the CWGC unique casualty reference number for each soldier. Clicking on this link will open the record of the casualties and information of the relevant cemetery or memorial. At the top right hand side of the casualty details, opposite the name, is a link 'Download Certificate'. Click on this to see or save the certificate.

MORTIMER LET US NOT FORGET

Early on July the first nineteen hundred and sixteen, with the morning mist dispersing slowly around them, thousands of British soldiers clambered from their trenches to play their part in the most famous battle of the First World War.

A few hours later, as the summer sun slowly climbed into the hot sky, it looked down onto a tragedy. Below, the hopes of Britain and the flower of a generation lay lifeless on the barbed-wire of 'No Man's Land'.

These men, from every town and village in Britain, had left their families to answer the call of King and Country. Their enthusiasm had quickly created the largest volunteer army in the nation's history. From streets, factories, farms and offices, entire groups of men enlisted together to form the 'Pals Battalions'.

These men now lay motionless among the shell holes and barbed wire of No Man's Land; half the attacking force, a staggering 60,000 men lost on the first day of battle alone. It was a savage battle that deteriorated into a ghastly war of attrition as the British army inched slowly forward against ferocious German counter attacks. As losses rose, tens of thousands Anzacs, Canadians and South Africans joined the fight and found themselves a place in history.

The small village of Mortimer near Reading in Berkshire did not escape the slaughter, because slaughter it was. On the village war memorial are listed the names of all those who gave their lives in the defence of their country both in the First World War and Second World War. Some of those listed died on this very day. Many years later when I stood alone in biting cold wind as the winter sun was setting and as it did so casting long lifeless shadows, one could feel the desolation and horror of the place which had seen such carnage some eighty plus years before. I hope my visit brought Mortimer a little closer to those who gave their lives on that awful day.

This small tribute is to bring together, where possible, a record of their names and their last resting place so that we may remember the ultimate sacrifice and work to together to ensure that it never happens again.

During world war one or as it was then called 'The Great War' nationwide, some 1,700,000 servicemen were killed. Mortimer memorial lists 72 names who gave their lives during the First World War. The information in this booklet has been researched as accurately as possible. Many of the records were lost during the Second World War when the records office was incendiary bombed. Where there was doubt the spelling of the Christian name has been used as in most cases the spelling was the only such one in the records. There are some names which show little or no connection with Mortimer, however they are in several cases the only casualty registered of that name, therefore it must be assumed that the record is that for the name on the memorial. The seventy plus who were killed represent almost one third of the two hundred plus those who joined the forces. At that time Mortimer, which included Mortimer Common, Mortimer West End

and Stratfield Mortimer numbered 1,423 sold on the parish register. In 1932 the parish register contained 1,395 names.

Many of the names registered in the Regimental records and at the War Graves Commission do not mention Mortimer or next of kin living in Mortimer. The graves have been found through cross reference of names and articles in the Mortimer magazine and Parish records.

It must also be remembered that in Mortimer at the beginning of World War One there were many large houses which employed several staff as did many of the farms. Some of those working in these places may well have come from outside the village and so it has not been easy to identify them. Additionally there was a Red Cross rest and recuperation hospital in the Working Men's Club which was located near St Mary's school, it could be that some re-joined the front and their deaths were recorded by relations, girlfriends etc.

For example Archie William Bushnell MM is listed and shown as a British casualty, further investigation shows that he was born in Mortimer and that later he emigrated to Canada. At the outbreak of war he joined the Canadian army and was killed whilst serving with the Canadian forces in Vimy Ridge. There is also another soldier's name on the memorial. He lived just a few yards from Archie and also went to Canada and also joined the Canadian Army and was also killed at Vimy Ridge. It may well be that they were mates and travelled to Canada together.

Where a name appears in the front of these notes it is copied as engraved on Mortimer memorial, when there is no reference to a War Graves certificate it is because no one with that name was listed as a casualty.

There is a cross reference to the cemeteries in which the casualties are laid to rest, however, there is in many instances, no known grave. The reason for this is that the casualty was known to have been killed and a body was found with identifiable regimental insignias, but actual identification of the body was not possible. In such cases the headstone indicates 'Unknown Soldier' of named regiment or corps. The name is displayed on the monument or panels within the cemetery. In the cases where a body was not found the name appears on the Mennen Gate in Ypres, Belgium.

John F Kemp MBE
Major Retired
Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers

**They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them**

World War Two Casualty

Singapore Memorial

Krangi war cemetery, which in the memorial is located, is constructed on a hill some 3 meters above the Woodland Road which is turning off the Singapore to Jahore Road, overlooking 'The Straights of Jahore'. It is about fourteen miles north of the city of Singapore on the northern side of the island.

Before 1939 Krangi area was a military camp and at the time of Japanese invasion of Singapore and Malaya it was the site of a large ammunition magazine. Not far from this special place was a military base where I John Kemp was stationed in 1964.

On the 8th February 1942, the Japanese crossed the Jahore Straights in strength, landing at the mouth of the Krangi river within two miles of the place the war cemetery now stands. On- the evening of 8th February, they launched an attack between the river and the causeway. During the next few days fierce fighting ensued, in many cases hand to hand, until their greatly superior numbers and air strength necessitated a withdrawal. After the fall of the island, the Japanese built a prisoner of war camp at Krangi and eventually a hospital was organised at nearby Woodlands.

During the initial occupation of the island the Japanese marched many hundreds of British soldiers and airmen into the sea and shot them. Many more were murdered on land.

Mac Plumbridge of Mortimer, as an airman, escaped from the island and after some eighteen months on the run was back with a fighting unit in Ceylon.

A colleague of mine John Blamey ex RAOC and later REME, whom I met while serving in Singapore, was as a member of Royal Artillery Regiment serving in Singapore when it fell to the Japanese. He was the sole survivor of a unit which was marched into the sea and shot. He and I often visited the location at which the atrocity took place. He never ever suggested he had forgiven the race for the suffering he endured between that fateful day and his release at the end of the war.

The cemetery started by the prisoners of Krangi was, after the reoccupation of the island, developed into a permanent war cemetery by the war graves service when it became evident that a large cemetery at Changi could not remain undisturbed. Changi could not remain undisturbed. Changi had been the site of the main prison camp on Singapore and a large hospital had been set up there by the Australian Infantry Force. In 1946 the graves were moved from Changi to Krangi, as were those from Buona Vista prisoner of war camp. Many other graves from all parts of the island were transferred to Krangi, together with all Second World War graves from Saigon military cemetery in French Indo-China, another site where permanent maintenance could not be assured.

The commission later brought in graves of both world wars from Bidadari Christian cemetery, Singapore, where again permanent maintenance was not possible. There are now 4,458 Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War buried or

commemorated at Kranji. More than 850 of the burials are unidentified. The Chinese Memorial Plot 44 marks a collective grave of 69 Chinese servicemen, all members of the Commonwealth Forces. Who were killed by the Japanese during the occupation in February 1942. First World War burials and commemorations number 64, including special memorials to three casualties known to have been buried in civilian cemeteries in Saigon and Singapore, but whose graves could not be located.

Within Kranji War Cemetery stands the Singapore Memorial, bearing the names of over 24,000 casualties of the Commonwealth who have no known grave. Many of these have no known date of death and were known to be missing or captured. The Land Forces commemorated by the memorial died during the campaign in the construction of the Burma – Thailand railway, or at sea while being transported into imprisonment elsewhere. The memorial also commemorates airmen who died during operations over the whole of southern and eastern Asia and the surrounding seas and oceans. It is on this memorial in column 455 where the name of James Henry Doe appears. Brother and uncle of the Doe family in Briarlea Road, Mortimer.

The Singapore [Unmaintainable Graves] Memorial, which stands at the western end of the Singapore memorial commemorates more than 250 casualties who died in campaigns in Singapore and Malaya whose known graves in civil cemeteries could not be assured maintenance and on religious grounds could not be moved to a war cemetery.

During the last hours of the battle of Singapore wounded civilians and military taken prisoner by the Japanese were brought to Kranji in their hundreds, many were shot by the Japanese while injured, as were the whole of the staff and patients of the military hospital at Gillman opposite to my home whilst I am serving here.

The number of the fatalities was such that burial in the normal manner was impossible. Before the war an emergency water tank had been dug into the grounds of the hospital this was used as a grave for more than 400 civilians and Commonwealth servicemen. After the war, it was decided that as individual identification of the dead would be impossible, the grave should be left undisturbed. The grave was suitably enclosed and consecrated by the Bishop of Singapore and a cross was erected over it by the military authorities, in memory of all those buried there.

John Kemp, Singapore 1965

Roll of Honour 1914 - 1918

Ernest George Andrews

Albert John Bailey

Arthur Samuel Barrett

Henry Stephen Barrett

William Barrett

Arthur George Bushell

Archie William Bushnell MM

Charles Bushnell

Fredrick Charles Bushnell

Henry George Bushnell

Alfred Arthur Chamberlain

E. Frederick Chamberlain

James Chamberlain

William John Clarke

Edwin Joseph Cox

John William Cox

Archibald W. Farrant

Jesse Flitter

John Gosling

William Gosling

Samuel Gould MM

Arthur Edward Illman
Richard Lansley Jackson
Joseph Kimber
Alfred John King
Frederick T. King
Ernest Edward Kirby
Charles Henry Marshall
William Megraw
Albert McCullough
Alfred McCullough
Joseph Cyril Monday
William Garlick Neville
William Alfred Nicholson
Charles Gordon Paramore
Harold Wills Preece
Sidney Raggett
Frederick Reeves
John Sibley
Leonard Snell
Albert Harry Steel
Jesse Sweetzer
George Beaumont Tyser
George Frederick Upstone

Walter Vince
Ernest Wheeler
Charles H. Whitburn
Arthur E. Wickens
Charles Wickens
Ernest William Wilde
Frederick Wilde
Frederick Mortimer Wise
Henry Francis Woodward
Harry George Yates

Additional Entries not on War Memorial

Thomas Harry Dicker
Percy H Eatwell
Sidney Eatwell
James Frank Elford
Frank Goodchild
Phillip Goodchild
George Henry Wickens
Harold G Wickens
Charles Henry Marshall

Ernest George Andrews

Ernest was headmaster of St Mary's School. He would probably have been in his late thirties or early forties when he was called up in September or October 1916 as conscription pulled in the older men. The vicar of Mortimer at the time, the Reverend A.B. Mynors recorded in the school log book on 26th March 1918...

News has just been received this day that the school staff has sustained yet another deplorable loss. Mr E.G. Andrews, gunner in the Heavy Artillery [though pressed several times by his Commanding Officer to accept a commission] was dangerously wounded on 21st march and dies in a Canadian Base Hospital at Abbeville on the 25th March. He will be mourned by all connected with the school....

It is strange to note that although Mr Andrews was highly thought of in Mortimer, his death was not recorded in the Parish Magazine. The thanks of the widow for the messages of sympathy received were noted in the May issue of the magazine.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/78027/>

Albert John Bailey

He joined the 2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment as a private soldier in 1914. He had been baptised on the 7th August 1892 so he was about twenty two when he joined up. His parents, Robert and Mary Bailey, lived at the Forehead, near Little Park Farm, Mortimer. He was wounded at least once before he was killed on 25th September 1915 at Loos.

Albert was 23 years old when he was killed in action. From the details of the action, he could have been killed anywhere in a huge area of support in the region of Lille. He has no known grave and is remembered with some 11,000 plus servicemen who were killed in that area. The body identified by regiment, but not by name is buried as an unknown soldier.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/874097/>

William Barrett

Arthur Samuel Barrett

Henry Stephen Barrett

The parish records indicate that this was a father and two sons. This family featured in the Reading Standard of the time under the heading 'Patriotic Family' –Husband and four sons of Alhambra Cottages, Mortimer Lane, Mortimer, Berks. Photographs of the five servicemen had captions:

Late private William Barrett died of heart failure in Salonika Labour Company, ASC.

Late Arthur S Barrett killed in action, A.B. Gunner on HMS Black Prince. He joined up September 1914.

Private Henry S Barrett missing believed dead, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

Two other sons who were serving survived.

JFK

Military records indicate that William Barrett, the father, died at the age of 46 on 4th July 1916. Arthur Samuel Barrett, Royal Navy, died on board HMS Black Prince aged 20 years on 31st May 1916 and Henry Stephen Barrett aged 18 years was killed on 28th September 1915. This lady first lost her youngest son, then her next sun and then her husband. Her two sons have no known graves.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/624284/>

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2875598/>

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/727218/>

Arthur George Bushell

Arthur joined the army in August 1915, the Royal Engineers. This is stated in the Parish magazine however the search shows it was in fact the Royal Garrison Artillery.

There is no record in the parish regarding his family and there is no record of age or next of kin.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/142023/>

Archie William Bushnell MM

Archie Bushnell was one of four brothers who lived at Great Park Lodge. Their parents were Henry and Elizabeth. Archie received a posthumous Military Medal. He served as a Private in the 3rd battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment. His Captain wrote. "it is with regret that I wrote few words concerning your gallant son, of whose death you have already been notified, but at the same time I know you will feel proud that he behaved in battle in a manner which justified even more than the decoration received. I am sending you his ribbon which he did not live to receive, and you will eventually receive the medal". His parents received the medal in June 1917. In the Parish Register and Mortimer history it refers to Archie being buried in Mortimer St Mary's. The family plot actually bears his name, however military records clearly state that he was killed at Vimy Ridge and his name is recorded on the Canadian Monument.

JFK

Military records indicate that Archie Bushnell was the son of William and Rosa Bushnell of Hendy's Cottage, Mortimer and brother of Ronald Bushnell of Briar Lea Road, Mortimer. Archie emigrated to Canada and at the outbreak of war joined the British Columbia Regiment of the Canadian Army. His Regiment moved to France and Archie was killed at Vimy Ridge. His military medal has been traced and is now with a member of the Bushnell family.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1565932/>

Charles Bushnell

Editor's note: There appears to be confusion in Major Kemp's record regarding Charles Bushnell and Fredrick Charles Bushnell.

The Commonwealth War Graves Records state that Charles Bushnell was Air Mechanic First Class, Royal Air Force, who died aged 26 in November 1918. He was the son of Charles and Eliza Bushnell, of Hammond's Heath, Mortimer, Berks; husband of Blanche Bushnell, of 43, Nicholas St., Globe Rd., Mile End, London.

Bushnell, Charles <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/4023305/>

Frederick Charles Bushnell

The parish records that Charles was one of four brothers who lived at Great Park Lodge. His parents were Henry and Elizabeth who later moved to Summerlug on Mortimer Common. Frederick was wounded prior to being killed in action.

JFK states

Military records do not substantiate the above statement, Charles Bushnell was the son of Eliza and Charles Bushnell of Hammond Heath Road, Mortimer.

Editor's note: It seems that this JFK statement refers to Charles Bushnell, not Fredrick Charles Bushnell. According to CWG records, Fredrick Charles Bushnell was the son of Henry and Elizabeth Bushnell of Great Park Lodge. He was Lance Corporal in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and died in May 1917 at the age of 23.

Bushnell, Frederick Charles <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/743225/>

Henry George Bushnell

Parish records state that Henry was the eldest of four brothers who lived at Great Park Lodge, Mortimer. Their parents were Henry and Elizabeth. Henry was a Lance Corporal with the 2nd Battalion of The Royal Berkshire Regiment when he was killed, aged twenty three, between 10th and 15th March 1915. He had been baptised on the 5th June 1892.

JFK

Military records confirm he was a Lance Corporal and show the date of death as 15 March 1915 and he was serving The 2nd Battalion of The Royal Berkshire Regiment when he was killed. There is no mention of his date of birth or that of any next of kin. This often happened if kin were not recorded when joining. Next of kin was confirmed through Regimental records of known members.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/194533/>

Alfred Arthur Chamberlain

The parish records indicate that he lived at The Turners Arms, Mortimer.

James Lionel Edward Chamberlain

The parish records indicate Ernest and James were brothers and that James was a Driver in The Royal Artillery and that Ernest was in The Royal Sussex Regiment . It stated that they lived in St John's Road, Mortimer.

JFK

Military records indicate that the two brothers were James and Alfred and their parents were James and Sarah Chamberlain of St Catherine's Hill, Mortimer. James is buried in a civilian churchyard in Pargnan, France with three identified and two unknown soldiers. Ernest listed on the war memorial as E Frederick, Military record F. was killed on 16th April 1918. It does not list any next of kin. One must assume it was he that lived in St. John's Road.

James Chamberlain <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/323605/>

F Chamberlain <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/462231/>

Alfred Chamberlain <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/29083/>

William John Clarke

William John Clarke married a Mortimer girl Miss Jane Elizabeth Bowman of 4, Briar Lea Road, Mortimer on the 27th December 1915. He was a Sergeant in the Durham Light Infantry and died of his wounds.

JFK

On searching the records there was no mention of Sergeant John William Clarke having been in the Durham Light Infantry, however there is a record of John William Clark. His records are included. The spelling on the war memorial indicates that the military record is incorrect. The record shown is that of the soldier who married Elizabeth Bowman.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/499926/>

Edwin Joseph Cox

The parish records indicate he lived in Wokefield Green before joining the Worcester Regiment.

John William Cox

The parish records indicate that he lived in Goddards Green. He was invalided out of the 5th Battalion of The Royal Berkshire Regiment as a Private soldier, but died in Sidcup Military Hospital. He was buried in Mortimer St Mary's Church Yard on 13th April 1918 aged 22 years.

JFK

Military records indicate that these were two brothers, sons of Mr John W. Cox and Mrs Mary E. Cox of 5 Alhambra Cottages, Mortimer, Berkshire. They died seven weeks apart. The younger of the two, Edwin was, like over four thousand others killed in the same battle, no known grave and his memory recorded on Soissons Memorial 63 miles North East of Paris, France.

Edwin Joseph Cox <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/725815/>

John William Cox <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/648650/>

Thomas Harry Dicker

Thomas lived at the top of West End Mortimer at the edge of the woods in a red brick cottage opposite Church Road. Son of Thomas and Sarah A. Dicker of Mortimer West End.

JFK

Thomas Dicker's name does not appear on Mortimer memorial however it may be on the Mortimer West End memorial, but they were a Mortimer family.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1647802/>

Percy H. Eatwell and Sidney Eatwell

Percy and Sidney Eatwell both these brothers were killed while serving in the army. They lived at Tanhouse Bridge, Pitfield Lane, Mortimer. Percy was in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

JFK

The official records indicate that both brothers were members of the same regiment. Percy was the youngest, they were killed just four days apart. The elder brother Sidney older by almost seven years was awarded The Military Medal for bravery in action. This award is not given lightly and any family member should contact the Medals Dept. Ministry of Defence to ensure the medal was claimed.

Their names do not appear on the Mortimer War memorial. There is no explanation as to how or why they were omitted.

P H Eatwell <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/176586/>

Sydney Eatwell <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/752781/>

James Frank Elford

James was the son of Henry Elford the Vicar's gardener and they lived in the cottage next to St Saviours Church. He was killed shortly after joining the army.

JFK

James was killed aged 20 while serving with the South Staffordshire Regiment. He does not have a known grave however his body is buried in Vis-En-Atois cemetery and his name is inscribed on one of the panels of the memorial.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1742120/>

Jesse Flitter

Jesse joined the Coldstream Guards in September 1914. He was killed on 4th October 1914 at Lyons. He had been baptised on the 4th June 1899. One supposes his christening had been delayed for some reason as this would imply an age of fifteen at his death.

JFK

The official military records indicate Jesse was 21 years of age when he was killed. It would be interesting to check his age when the 1901 Census is published. He was an uncle to the Johnson Family of 95 The Avenue, Mortimer. My investigations show that his father was a police man.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/325880/>

Frank Goodchild

Phillip Goodchild

These two brothers lived in Traveller's Cottages, West End Road, Mortimer and were sons of Ernest and Emma Blanche Goodchild. Frank a private was lost at sea H.M.S Good Hope.

JFK

Military records confirm that there was only one serviceman with the name Phillip Goodchild killed during World War One. He died or was killed somewhere in India, he has no known grave, he died on 25th October 1918 his age was unrecorded and no next of kin details are recorded. As the only recorded name, this record is of Phillip.

Neither of the names are recorded on the War Memorial in Mortimer.

Phillip Goodchild <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1437181/>

Frank Goodchild <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2871192/>

John Gosling

William Gosling

John Gosling joined the 2nd Battalion of The Royal Berkshire Regiment at the outbreak of war. He was killed at 'Hill Sixty' on the 9th May 1915.

William Gosling was serving in India when he died. William lived in Wren Cottage, no other information is available. It is believed they were brothers, but not confirmed, they could be cousins.

JFK

It cannot be confirmed from military records where John Gosling was killed. The date is confirmed, but not the place. The cemetery in which William is laid to rest contains bodies of some five hundred in number, some who died naturally and those who were killed in various actions in the wild country to the north of Karachi.

Further information is available from the Regimental Association of The Kings Dragoon Guards, now the Armoured Division.

W A Gosling <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1450681/>

John Gosling <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/873290/>

Samuel Gould

Editor's note:

Major Kemp's document has no notes regarding Samuel Gould. The Commonwealth War Graves records state Corporal Samuel Gould MM of 35th Division, Signal Company, Royal Engineers died age 36 on 19 October 1917.

He was the son of the late Nute and Anne Gould of Hill Farm Mortimer; husband of Alice Gould of St John's Road, Mortimer.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/436461/>

Arthur Edward Illman

Arthur was Sergeant in the Berkshire Yeomanry when he was killed on the 11th December 1915 at Mersa Matruh. He was aged 28 years.

JFK

Arthur is buried in Alexandria, Egypt, he was Lance Sergeant and died at the age of 27 years.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/109091/>

Richard Landsey Jackson

The parish record spells the name as Lansley and states that he was once a member of St. John's Choir. He was wounded at the battle of the Somme on 25th September 1916 and died two days later. He had joined the Cycle Corps of the Territorial Army in September 1916.

JFK

The military records indicate only one soldier with the name Richard L Jackson served during the period 1914 until 1918 he is the one shown. He was a member of the 5th Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment and died on 29th September 1916. He has a marked grave in a cemetery which was adjacent to a field dressing station and hospital and that most of those in plots 1 to 5 were from the Somme offensive, which would tie up with the almost correct Parish information.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/511523/>

Joseph Kimber

JFK

No record can be found in the parish regarding Joseph. His military connection does not show any connection to the village apart from that his name was submitted for inclusion on the war memorial.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/381231/>

Alfred John King

The only mention is that Alfred joined the forces as soon as war was declared. He was the son of Levi and Annie King of Victoria Road, Mortimer.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/834876/>

Frederick Thomas Payne King

Frederick King is not mentioned in the parish records, it is not known why his name is on the Mortimer memorial. His home was in Surrey. It could be that he worked in Mortimer or was at some time in the hospital in Mortimer and when the names were called for to be entered on the memorial someone who knew of him offered the name.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/798336/>

Ernest Edward Kirby

Ernest Kirby lived at Butlers Lands Cottages, Mortimer before he joined the 8th Battalion of The Royal Berkshire Regiment as a Private. He was wounded at Loos and subsequently was transferred to the Wiltshire Regiment. He was killed in action in December 1916 when aged 19 years. His mother was Mrs W Kirby of Great Park Cottages. She received a letter from his Captain....He was killed instantaneously by a shell while on duty on the front line....Although he had been such a short time with us, I had noticed what a fine fellow he was. He was always cheerful and keen and his loss was felt by all with deepest sympathy.

JFK

Ernest was killed on the 31st December 1916. It is doubtful that the content of the letter to Mrs Kirby was in the whole truthful. Ernest was with the 1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment when he was killed. He was in the village or commune of Ploegsteert in Belgium. Ploegsteert was at the time of his death in the Allies hands, in fact it was only occupied by the Germans for a short period during 10 April until 29th September 1918. There was a Field dressing station in the village. In keeping with the necessity a cemetery was laid out adjacent to the Aid Post or Dressing Station as many of those injured died of their wounds. Ernest has a known grave which had he been killed by a shell his body would have been smashed and his identity lost.

The cemetery abuts a farm and faces south on a fairly main road. In all there are 333 graves in total most of which are known graves, there are six unidentified graves but a known body is with the six but it was not known which, there is a special memorial to that soldier. In addition two German soldiers are buried there. Six of the graves have been added when bodies were found in the area and, as stated one was known but which actual body was not known.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/487413/>

Albert McCullough

Alfred McCullough

Albert and Alfred were brothers who lived in Station Road. Both joined up at the outbreak of war. Albert was born on 21st January 1884 and was killed in action as a Private in the 6th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment, aged thirty two.

Alfred went straight to the Front as a Private in the 1st Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment and was killed on the 25th October 1914 at Sonnebeke.

JFK

These two brothers were the sons of Elizabeth McCullough of The Forehead Mortimer. Their father Thomas McCullough had predeceased them. Alfred was killed on 25th October 1914, his place of death is not known and he has no known grave or place of burial. He is remembered on the Menin Gate memorial in Ypres, Belgium.

Albert was killed on the 1st July 1916, he is buried in a grave marked a soldier of the The Royal Berkshire Regiment in Thiepval.

Albert James McCullough <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/802379/>

Alfred McCullough <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1621536/>

William James Megraw

William James Megraw lived at Railway Terrace alongside Mortimer GWR station. He served in the 1st Battalion of The Royal Berkshire Regiment as a private and was wounded at Richeborough. He was posted as missing in March 1916.

JFK

The military records state that Private William James McGraw was killed on 15th March 1915 during an attack near the river Lys between Estaires and Fournes. He has no known grave. He was 21 years of age when he was killed.

William James Megraw <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/854357/>

Joseph Cyril Monday

Editor's note:

Major Kemp's document has no notes regarding Joseph Cyril Monday. The Commonwealth War Graves records state that Second Lieutenant Joseph Cyril Monday of the Black Watch died in May 1917. He was the son of Joseph and Dahlia Monday of Westminster. The link to Mortimer is not known and perhaps this is not the same Joseph Cyril Monday.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/4040164/>

William Garlick Neville

He was baptised on 2nd October 1892, the son of a bootmaker. He was a leading member of The Boy's Club and for some years was the organ blower and a member of the Band of Ringers. He lived in Windmill Road, Mortimer. He joined The Hampshire Regiment in July 1915 and went out to the Front early in 1916 where he died on 1st July 1916. Following the receipt of the news of his death a muffled pal was rung in his honour.

JFK

William was 24 years old when he was killed near Arras in France. He is buried with a known grave at Redan Ridge. There are only 155 known soldiers buried in the cemetery, all the other casualties are known only as a soldier of a named Regiment.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2908050/>

William Alfred Nicholson

William was baptised on the 3rd April 1889, the son of William and Lucy. He lived at Aspen Cottage.

JFK

William has a known grave in a relatively small cemetery in a small village in the Somme. His grave is in the extension. The location is in isolated country side and although quiet and peaceful I felt lonely standing there in the watery, late winter sunshine.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/177003/>

Charles Gordon Paramore

Charles Paramore was a Captain in the 8th Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment when he was killed on September 25th 1915 at Loos.

JFK

It has been impossible to ascertain why the name of Captain Paramore is on the Mortimer memorial. Although a member of the county regiment he was born in London and his parents lived in Derbyshire. It could be that he had met a girlfriend in the area of Mortimer and when he was killed she registered his death with the parish council.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/527658/>

Harold Preece

JFK

No record can be found in the parish regarding Harold. His military record does not show any connection with the village. The only significant record was that his name was submitted for inclusion on the memorial.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1624814/>

Sidney Raggett

Sidney Raggett was an active member of the Garth Club St John's Road, Mortimer. His death was recorded in the Parish Magazine: 'Swiftly came the news of the death of Sidney Raggett, Private in The Royal Montreal Regiment, who joined in August 1914, after three months in Canada came home to complete his training on Salisbury Plain. He went out in February 1915, was wounded in April, but returned in May and on the 21st was killed by a stray shot at the battle of Richeborough.' His Sergeant wrote of him 'I was awfully sorry he was hit, as he was one of the best boys I had'. Major General Sir Sam Hughes, in a letter of condolence to his mother said, 'There is consolation in knowing that he did his duty fearlessly and well, and gave his life for the cause of liberty and the up building of the Empire'.

JFK

Military records show that Sidney Raggett was in the Canadian army and served with the 14th Battalion of The Quebec Regiment of the Canadian Infantry. He was one of 11,167 Canadian casualties on Vimy Ridge, Pas de Calais, France. He died on 21 May 1915 aged 22 years ago.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1573318/>

Frederick Reeves

Frederick Reeves of Windmill Road, Mortimer was a Private in The Inniskilling Fusiliers when he died aged 19.

JFK

Frederick was a member of The 2nd Battalion The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers when he was killed on 15th October 1918, just one month before the Armistice was declared. He was buried at Moorslede, Western Belgium in a marked grave. He was the son of James and Emily Reeves.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/163269/>

John James Sibley

John James Sibley lived in Drury Lane and married Emma Sale at St John's Church, High Cross, Standon. She came from Ware in Hertfordshire. By the end of 1916 he died of his wounds. He was a Lance Corporal in The 1st Yorkshire Regiment.

JFK

John James Sibley was a Private in the 2nd Battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment. He was killed on 4th July 1916. He has a marked grave in Daours Cemetery in the Somme, France. His records do not show that he was married and the grave does not record any next of kin. This is often the case when a soldier married, reported to his unit and when straight to the front before documentation was completed.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/77673/>

Leonard Snell

JFK

Leonard, the son of Henry and Jemma Snell of the village was baptised in the parish church on 4th November 1888. He joined the army in September 1914.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/259271/>

Albert Harry Steel

JFK

Albert Henry known as Harry was a well-known and well liked member of the village club. He was a bell ringer and a member of the choir. He regularly took part in village shows and he was well-known for his impersonation of the then famous Harry Lauder. Harry served in Ireland before going to Gallipoli where he was killed. The son of Mr and Mrs E Steel of Victoria Road, Mortimer.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/685909/>

Jesse Sweetzer

Jesse Sweetzer was thirty five when he was killed as a member of The 1st Battalion of The Royal Berkshire Regiment on 28th April 1915 at Guinchy.

JFK

The military records shown no connection with Mortimer and there is a variation of four years in his age when he was killed, however all the other details agree with the Private Jesse Sweetzer, the details of whom are in this record. There is a piece of ground in Mortimer named 'Sweetzer's Piece' but nothing has been found to make a connection.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/280628/>

George Beaumont Tyser

George was the son of G. W. Tyser, JP of Oakfield, Mortimer. He was killed in action at the age of thirty nine, having previously volunteered for the South African War and fought right through the campaign, obtaining medals and five clasps. In December 1916 the vicar and church wardens received a beautiful gift of the parish church in the shape of a processional cross, given in his memory and bearing the inscription; A. M. D. G [to the greater glory of God] and loving memory of George Beaumont Tyser, Major 7th East Lancashire Regiment,. Killed in action, 5th July 1916 at La Boiselle. Out of the stress of the doing into the peace of the done.

In 1917 the church received another commemorative gift, a beautiful little box or pyx, for holding the bread about to be used in Holy Communion. It will be in constant use. The box is of silver, specially made by Messer's Hart, Son & Peard, and bears beneath this inscription 'In loving memory of Major G. B. Tyser, killed in action July 5th 1916. From LNT the thanks of the parishioners for this welcome gift are due to Mrs G. B. Tyser.

JFK

Major Tyser has a marked and known grave. He was buried in the first batch of graves because he was killed early in the battle to take La Boiselle in the Somme. The assault on the village lasted for several days before it fell to the Allies. Major Tyser was killed at Bapaume Road. The nearby town of Albert was destroyed when it fell to the Germans on the 26th March 1918. There are 152 known graves from the original attack onto the village.

See the short poem in the introduction to this book, it was found on the wall of a dug out in Albert, France.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/524004/>

George Frederick Upstone

The only mention is that George joined the forces and that he was the son of a shopkeeper. The Upstone family had a baker's shop in King Street, Mortimer.

JFK

George joined The 2nd Battalion The Royal Berkshire Regiment and was killed on 16th August 1916. He does not have a marked grave, his remains however are buried in a grave marked 'A Soldier of the Royal Berkshire Regiment'.

Buried at Tyne Cot in Belgium he is in one of the largest cemeteries. This last resting place had almost 35,000 soldiers' remains in its confines. The area in which George died was that in which Germans first used poisonous gas.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/825311/>

Walter Vince

Walter Vince has no mention in the Parish records. He lived with his father in Warren's Wood Cottages.

JFK

Walter was casualty evacuated to his home where he died of his injuries eighteen days after the Armistice 29th November 1918. He was a Private soldier in 1st Battalion of The Buffs East Kent Regiment. He is buried in the parish church St Mary's Mortimer.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/648652/>

Ernest Wheeler

JFK

Ernest was the son of Joseph and Sarah Wheeler of Mortimer. He married shortly before going to France to Sarah Elizabeth of Essex.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/280681/>

Charles Haddon Whitburn

Charles was a Private in the 2nd Battalion The Hampshire Regiment when he was killed in action. He had lived in St Mary's Road, Mortimer.

JFK

Charles was the son of the late Charles and Winifred Whitburn of St John's Road, Mortimer. He has no known grave although his body is in a separate grave the exact identity is not known so he is one of the many who are marked as unknown soldier and his name appears only on the memorial.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/876736/>

Arthur E Wickens

Charles Wickens

George Henry Wickens

Harold G Wickens

The four brothers were the sons of Mr Charles and Mrs Sarah Wickens. Arthur was baptised in the village on 16th April 1899, George was likewise baptised on the 5th February 1893. There is no record of the other two brothers being baptised.

Arthur Edward Wickens <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1750235/>

Charles Wickens <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1563959/>

H G Wickens <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/4040357/>

George Henry Wickens <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/821385/>

Frederick Wilde

Ernest Wilde

The brothers were the sons of Thomas and Jane Wilde who lived at Wheats Cottage, Mortimer. Both boys joined the army early in the conflict.

Frederick Wilde <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1563976/>

Ernest William Wilde <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/851216/>

Frederick Mortimer Wise

Frederick Mortimer Wise was baptised on the 7th August 1894 and was the son of a coal merchant. He joined the Canadian Gordon Highlanders in February 1915 and died on the 5th September 1916. He was lieutenant.

JFK

The military records state that Frederick Mortimer Wise was a commissioned officer with the rank of Lieutenant in the York and Lancashire Regiment. He is buried in the Pas de Calais, France.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/570525/>

Henry Francis Woodward

JFK

Henry formerly from Mortimer and the son of William Woodward was married to Kate Woodward who lived in Cholsey in Berkshire. There are no records of him in the parish records although his brother lived in the village until his death and his nephew as I write still lives in the village.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/507331/>

Harry George Yates

JFK

Harry is yet another of those whose name appears on the memorial and yet no known written record can be found of his connection with Mortimer. Perhaps he was an employee in one of the large houses or a labourer on one of the farms and when he was killed his name was remembered. In 1921 when names were included on memorials no record was requested from the military. Families and friends put the names forward and in several instances I have found names two different memorials.

Note 1.

There is one name recorded on a First World War roll of Honour near Plumley, Cheshire, the soldier married and later the family lived in Mortimer. Because he did not return to his former home it was assumed he was killed.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/912325/>

Charles Henry Marshall

JFK

The parish records indicate that Charles Henry Marshall was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard on 13 October 1917.

The war graves records do not show anyone of that name being buried in Mortimer. Further research to any military person being killed or dying in October 1917 also did not show any reference to a C. H. Marshall.

The name Marshall was then researched and there was not one of forty pages of 20 names that showed that they were buried in Mortimer. In addition there could not be found any Marshall that had any connection with the village of Mortimer.

It could be that he had been discharged from the military and died during 1917 and the fact that he was no longer in the army his death was not registered with the military authorities.

Roll of Honour 1939 - 1945

Ronald Anderson

James Fawkus

Kenneth Gleave

Joseph Hailstone

George Hale

Frederick Johnson

William Leslie

Arthur May

Eric Mitchell

Walter Wrigglesworth

Ronald William Anderson

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2084013/>

James William Fawcus

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2031290/>

Kenneth George Gleave

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2203536/>

Joseph George Hailstone

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2366932/>

George Henry Hale

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2441746/>

Frederick George Johnson

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/937666/>

William Harold Blyth Lesslie

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2273407/>

Arthur Charles May

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2353232/>

Eric Victor Mitchell

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2078024/>

Walter James Wilfred Wrigglesworth

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2670855/>

Victor Kemp

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2772531/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission ensures that 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten. They care for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations, in 154 countries. The CWGC casualty database lists the names and place of commemoration of the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars.

It also records details of the 67,000 Commonwealth civilians who died "as a result of enemy action" in the Second World War.

The main web site is <http://www.cwgc.org/>

To find details of a cemetery:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery.aspx>

To find details of a casualty:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx>