



Brookwood Cemetery

One of our recent additions Sapper George Payne is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery and as my wife and I were enjoying a family weekend in South London it seemed opportune to call at Brookwood on the way home.

The cemetery sits amongst the tall pine trees that are typical of this part of Surrey and was readily identified by following the classic CWGC sign so familiar in France but not expected here in Surrey.



BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the United Kingdom, covering approximately 37 acres. In 1917, an area of land in Brookwood Cemetery (The London Necropolis) was set aside for the burial of men and women of the forces of the Commonwealth and Americans, who had died, many of battle wounds, in the London district. This site was further extended to accommodate the Commonwealth casualties of the Second World War and there is a large Royal Air Forces section in the south-east corner of the cemetery including the graves of Dutch, Czechoslovak and Canadian/American airmen who served with the RAF.

The Canadian Records building, houses a reception room for visitors and other offices. We parked here and approached the nearest grave as a pointer to "our" grave. These graves were plot 35 and George Payne is in plot 6. Luckily we found a map in a holder at the building and then back in the car to drive to the far side of the site. Our cross duly placed we then took in the vastness and aura of the cemetery.

There are nearly 8,500 graves here, all in neat rows. In addition to the Commonwealth plots, the cemetery also contains French, Polish, Czechoslovakian, Belgian and even German and Italian sections. The large American Military Cemetery is the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The youngest soldier buried here was only 15 years old and the oldest will be among the plots dedicated to the Chelsea Pensioners.

For those who are unable to travel to the battlefields of France, Brookwood provides a comparable experience without leaving UK. The Cemetery is off the A234 west of Woking and is located alongside the civilian cemetery, which at 500 acres is the largest cemetery in Europe. So large that in the 19th century there were two railway stations; one for C of E and one for the other religions in their different parts of the cemetery. [report by David Bretherton]



A two bar Cross marking the French section

Crosses Recently Delivered

12 May 2015

2nd Lieut J A Greenhalgh
Cheshire Regiment

Sgt Sidney Thomas Parker
Oxf & Bucks Light Infantry

Brett Chowns
Le Touret Memorial, France

(These two being missed last month)

5 June 2015

Private John Robert Ing
Oxf & Bucks Light Infantry

David Gregory
Brouay War Cemetery
Calvados, France

10 June 2015

Private Joseph A Wicks
Royal East Kent Regiment

Graham Watson
Evreux Communal Cemetery
Eure, France

12 June 2015

Private Leslie Hodges
Oxf & Bucks Light Infantry

LWS students
Brouay War Cemetery
Calvados, France

L/Cpl Ronald J Boiling
Oxf & Bucks Light Infantry

LWS students
Banneville-la-Campagne War
Cemetery, Calvados, France

14 June 2015

Sapper George Payne
Royal Engineers

Margaret Bretherton
Brookwood Cemetery
Woking, Surrey, England

Cigs for the troops

THAME GAZETTE—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1916



There ain't no shops to shop in, and there ain't no grand hotels. When you spend your days in dug-outs, doin' 'ole sale trade in shells

Direct from Factory to Soldier at the Fronts by Post

Order X 280	Willis	"WILD WOODBINE"	Cigarettes	3/3
Order Y 280	Willis	"GOLD FLAKE"	Cigarettes	5/-
Order Z 500	Player's	"NAVY CUT"	Cigarettes	8/6
Order U 1000	Willis	"WILD WOODBINE"	Cigarettes	9/-
Order Q 500	Willis	"THREE CASTLES"	Cigarettes	10/6
Order P 1000	Willis	"GOLD FLAKE"	Cigarettes	15/-
Order O 1000	Willis	"NAVY CUT"	Cigarettes	16/-

CANNOT ACCEPT ORDERS FOR SMALLER QUANTITIES THAN ABOVE.
ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE WHICH ENSURES QUICK DESPATCH.
NOW ABLE TO FORWARD TO INDIA ALSO. WRITE FOR PARTICULARS.
Orders may be Handled to any Tobacconist or Foreign Agent in the District.

BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO CO., LTD.
(EX. Dept.) Westminster House, No. 7, Millbank, London, S.W.

One of the continuing stories in the Thame Gazette is the work of the Carol Singers fund who raised money to send parcels, including cigarettes, to the troops. There are many letters of appreciation. The 'slate club' at the Four Horse Shoes raised enough to send 6,000 cigarettes to the Oxf and Bucks men in 1916. Smoking was endemic at that time and I guess that cigarettes were not in the rations that the

men got; Did you try smoking the French cigs? Not surprising then that this advert appeared in the Thame Gazette in October 1916.

Thame Gazette 12 March 1918 AN APPRECIATED GIFT

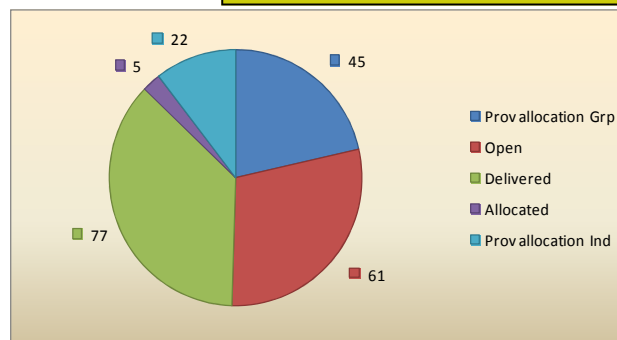
At the annual share out of the members of the Four Horse Shoes Slate Club, Thame and also the club at Moreton each member left a subscription for the purposes of sending a present of cigarettes to the men of the County Regiment. Miss Young, the hon treasurer of the former club has received the following letter of acknowledgement:- Dear Miss Young, Will you convey to the "Four Horse Shoes," The Bell," Moreton and the Slate Club, my very best thanks on behalf of the 52nd for the cigarettes you have so very kindly sent them. I am so sorry I haven't been able to acknowledge them before, but the regiment has been having a somewhat stirring and anxious times in the line, and we are now having a short respite before once again going into the trenches. I wish I could explain adequately how much these gifts from the people of Oxfordshire are looked forward to and appreciated. They make all the difference in the otherwise monotonous and tedious lives that we are called upon to lead, and the men themselves feel, that though they are sacrificing their prospects in civil life through being out here, yet they are not forgotten by their neighbours, who, through force of circumstances are in England "carrying on." Thanking you all again for your kindness, Yours faithfully R J Brett Major.

Delivery update

Spring has been an excellent delivery time and it looks like deliveries will continue well through the summer. We are starting to get offers for the graves in England but we have had no enquiries for some of the European ones.

Countries like Germany where we have three RAF casualties; two near Kleve just over the Dutch border and one in Bavaria about 50 kms south of Munich. A further chance to go to Italy has arisen with a new name whose grave is in Naples. Turkey and the Gallipoli campaign has been much in the news and we have two names on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli.

There are 11 war cemeteries in Tunisia and we have names in two of them. Medjez-el-Bab cemetery is 60 km west of Tunis and Tabarka is in the north of the country close to the Algerian border and near to Tabarka airport. There is also Egypt, Cairo, El Alamein and Suez.



Thame
museum

This newsletter is printed and published by Thame Museum Trust and distributed free to all.

This paper is intended as a digest of news items about the Thame Remembers project to keep the people of Thame up to date with what is happening.

Thame Remembers
79 High Street
Thame
OX9 3AE

01844 212801
www.thameremembers.org

20 June 2015

Private Charles Allen

Royal Field Artillery

Sue Motteram

Wimereux Cemetery,
Pas de Calais, France

20 June 2015

Lieutenant Willis Janes

King's Own Scottish Borderers

Roy Motteram

Le Treport Military Cemetery,
Seine-Maritime, France

29 June 2015

Stoker Wilfred Harry Clarke

Royal Navy HMS Formidable

Margaret Skinner

Chatham Naval Memorial,
Kent, England

Stoker Frederick North

Royal Navy HMS Formidable

Sue Boyle

Chatham Naval Memorial,
Kent, England

Thame Remembers is a project of Thame, Oxfordshire to commemorate the centenary of World War One by researching those from Thame who fell in all conflicts worldwide, and remembering them by placing a Thame Cross on their grave or memorial wherever in the world that may be. If you feel that you can help please contact Dave on 01844 21 5178.