



Chatham Memorial Visit

Stokers First Class Wilfred Clarke and Fred North are both commemorated at the CWGC Naval Memorial in Chatham, Kent. Immaculately maintained in spite of incidences of vandalism, the memorial is dedicated to over 19,000 sailors from both World Wars, who have no known grave. Wilfred Clarke and Fred North both died on 1st January 1915 when the battleship HMS Formidable was sunk in the English Channel by German submarine U24.



We elected to deliver the two crosses (in the form of a wreath) to Chatham as I had grown up in the Medway towns and have fond memories of the area.

My mother, Margaret Skinner, moved away from Medway only two years ago to come and live near us here in

Thame so it was important that she came with us. This added to the significance of the day, as she returned to the area where she had lived for over 50 years.

It was a beautiful sunny morning as we drove to Kent and made our way up to the CWGC Memorial, which when growing up we simply referred to as the Copper Ball. It is situated on the Great Lines, now a heritage park and a pleasant area of paths and grassland with stunning views across the Medway towns. We placed the wreath centrally between panels 11 and 12 to honour the two young men from Thame. Frederick North was 27 years old and married with two small children and Wilfred Clarke was merely eighteen. As we stood quietly and said some words together, we all felt moved by the experience and honoured that we had been able to play a small part in this important project for Thame.

We then went to the nearby St Barbara's Garrison Church where Padre Price welcomed us and was very interested to hear about the project. We found the names of both young men in the Rolls of Honour, lit candles for them close by and signed the Visitor's Book at the church, explaining the work of Thame Remembers.

We were proud to have undertaken the delivery of the wreath for Thame Remembers and the memory of this day will stay with us for a very long time.
Sue and Phil Boyle

Crosses Recently Delivered

7 July 2015

Private William R Loosley
Grenadier Guards

.....
Helen Turner

La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial
Seine et Marne, France

14 July 2015

Sergeant Charles Wood
Royal Marines Artillery

.....
Liz Ramage

Portsmouth Cemetery
Hampshire, England



**Stoker First Class
Frederick James North**



**Stoker First Class
Wilfred Harry Clarke**

THAME NATIONAL RESERVE



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

Our researches this month took us into the area of the National Reserve. This was formed of former regular servicemen, many from the Boer War, who still held a reserve commitment. Two Thame Gazette articles from 1914 are of interest.

18 August 1914: On Friday evening about 60 members of Divisions 1 and 2 of the Thame detachment of the National Reserve paraded in the High Street for the purpose of meeting Lord Saye and Sele who explained in what manner the Reservists would be employed. He urged them not to be impatient, as their services would undoubtedly be required in the near future. Captain Wykeham was also on parade which was in charge of Sgt Major Bassett. It has been decided to organise Class 3 (men over 50) to form a local guard which has met with unanimous response.

1 September 1914: Several members of the Thame National Reserve having volunteered for service at home or abroad left the town for Oxford on Friday morning. The following formed the contingent ; Corporal H J Shrimpton, Lance Corporal H Cozier, Privates W Bowler, W Hampton, H Clarke, J Price, E Harbour, A Hastings, A Rush, W Higgins.

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.

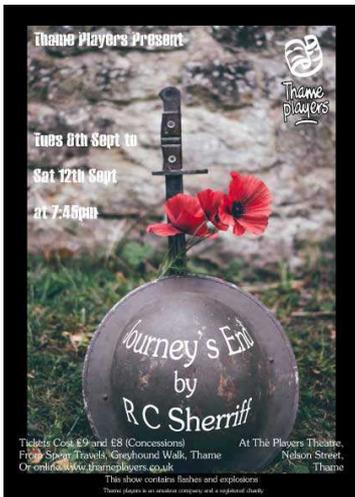
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Did these ten men just take it unto their own hand to march off to Oxford? Most of them joined the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. Harry Shrimpton died in August 1916 in France, Henry Cozier was killed in Belgium Sept 1915, William Bowler in France in November 1918, and Arthur Rush in France in April 1917. Harry Clarke and J Price joined the Oxf & Bucks Light Infantry, served throughout the war and survived. William Higgins, Royal Horse Artillery and Ernie Harbour, Warwickshire Regiment also came through war. W Hampton however does not appear to have troubled any other record keeper as there is no further trace of him.

Journey's End

Thame Players production of Journey's End runs from 8-12 September at the Players Theatre, Nelson Street. Set in the trenches near Saint-Quentin, Aisne, in 1918 towards the end of the First World War, Journey's End gives a glimpse into the experiences of the officers of a British Army infantry company in World War I. The entire story plays out in the officers' dugout over four days from 18 March 1918 to 21 March 1918, during the run-up to the real-life events of Operation Michael. Thame Remembers is collaborating with the production on everything from set design through to props, uniforms, sound effects and pyrotechnics and has a special part to play in setting the scene at the start of the production.



Records Update

Following further research we have added two more names to the list. Rifleman Sidney Stevens Edwards (1892 - 1917) who records show was born in Thame and Private Frederick James Goodman (1878 - 1916) who was well known in Thame and was employed by Putman & Sons, tent contractors of Wellington Street, Thame.

Already on our list is Warrant Officer Joseph Castle who died during the Cyprus conflict and is recorded on the Cyprus Memorial in Kyrenia. We have now established that he was buried in the Old Christian Cemetery in Bahrain's capital Manama and so have switched our cross delivery aim there. We hope that a Thame resident has business interests in Bahrain and will be able to deliver our cross. Or maybe you will be holidaying there soon?

Old Christian Cemetery in Bahrain where WO J A Castle is buried.



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.