

CORSTON WAR MEMORIAL



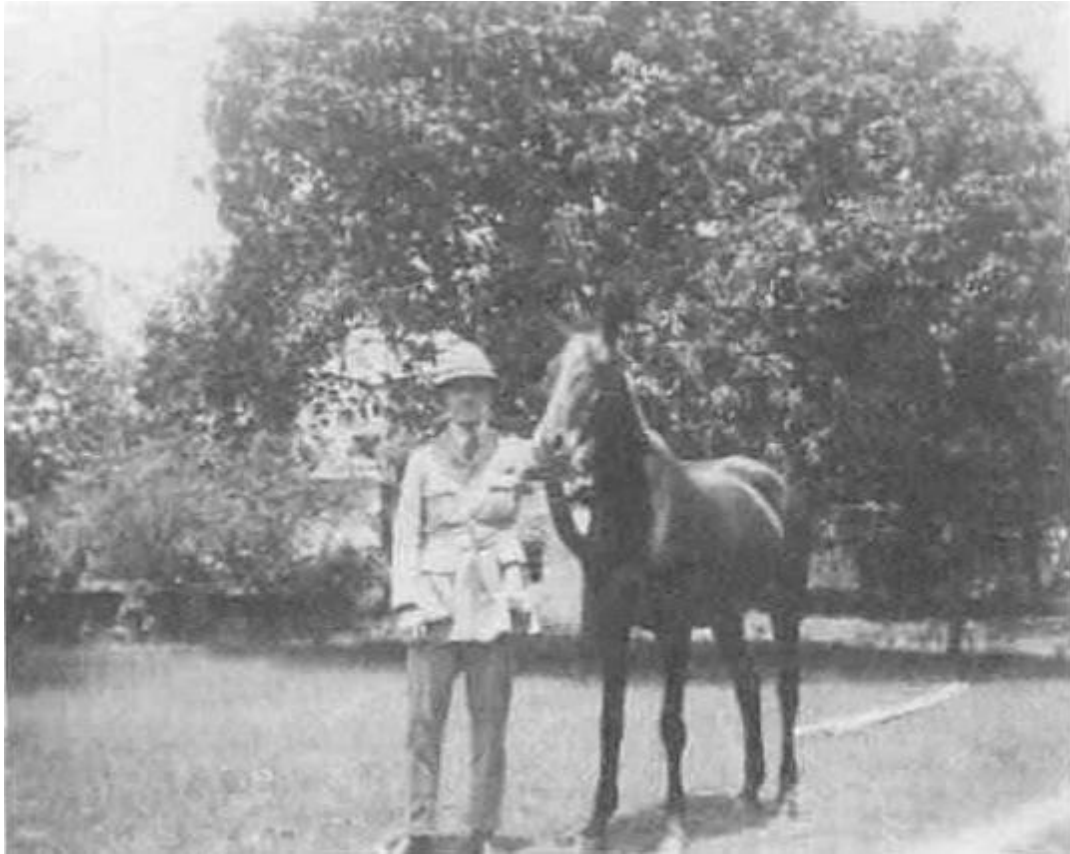
*"Let them rest quietly there on the field,
Where they fell fighting but never would yield
While their great spirit's heard heaven's great call,
Bravely to conquer on, bravely to fall."*

*Sapper J. Cray. Royal Engagers
(located in an attic 2010)*

There follows a portrayal of those villagers whose names appear on the Corston War memorial and who perished in the Great and Second World wars.

Captain Friedrich Wilhelm Bartelt

Son of Freidrich Ludwig and Rosanna Bartelt of Corston Lodge, now St Teresa's, husband of Gertrude Bartelt, and father to Richard and Peter. He was born on the 23rd September 1887 in Corston.



Regiment - Somerset Light Infantry, 2nd/4th Bn.

Died - 11th September 1916 in Calcutta, India, aged 28.

Buried - Body repatriated to Corston All Saints churchyard.

Private Henry Loos Brain

Son of Edgar and Florence Brain of *The Lodge on main Bath Road* (?). Husband of Betty Ellen (*nee Holloway?*). He was born in 1917.



Regiment - Devonshire Regiment, 2nd Bn.

Died - 16th July 1944, aged 27. Probably during the Normandy landings of 1944.

Buried - Bayeaux War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave XXI.F.16.

Private Percy George Box

Son of James (a carter on a farm) and Hester Box of 10 Ashen (Ashton) Hill, Corston. He was born in Priston on 11th December 1887 and baptized at Corston church. He had two brothers, Herbert and Arthur, and two sisters, Ellena and Clara.



Regiment - 25th Bn (Infantry) Australian Infantry Force (ABF). Service No. 37.
Enlisted in Townsville, Queensland, 1st February 1915 as a
Lengthsman.

Died - 5th August 1916.

Posted - Villiers-Bretonneux Memorial (Australian), near Amiens, Somme,
France, and Australian Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial,
panel 103, Canberra,

Percy George Box is posted in the 1911 census so we can assume he emigrated to Australia after that, having been a farm labourer. He is listed as residing at Buderin Mountains, via Woombye, Queensland care of a Mrs Hurford at the time of enlistment

He embarked on the Australian troopship HMAA Aeneas (ship no. A60) on the 29th June 1915

He served in Gallipoli and the Somme, France and was posted missing on the 6th August 1916. He was finally declared killed in action (KIA) on the 25th July 1917.

The Australian Red Cross records state the following -

"He was a little dark and clean shaven chap. The 25th had taken the ridge at Pozieres on the 4th August 1916 and his discs were picked up in No Mans' Land, all that was left as he was reported blown up by a shell".

Flying Officer Dennis Ingham Brain

Son of Henry Edward and Nora Brain, Husband of Barbara Jean of Cardiff. He was born in 1921 (registered Keynsham) *and although originally resident in The Lodge, main road (A4), he stayed with his Grandmother in Ashton Hill.*



Service - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 57 Sqn,

Died - 2nd September 1944, aged 23. Service no. 178527.

Posted - Runnymede Memorial, panel 204. This means his body was not located.

There is still a little doubt about the authenticity of these notes.

Sergeant William (*Bertie*) Eyres

Son of William (a Carter and Agricultural Labourer) and Mary Eyres, formerly of Lower Farm, High Street, Corston. He was born in Corston in 1886 and had a brother, John, and two sisters, Martha and Rose. At age 15 he was a boarder at Highbury House in St Saviours Parish of Walcot and was listed as a Gardener.



Regiment - Royal Garrison Artillery 44th Siege Bty. Service no. 14069

Died - 21st October 1916. Aged 30.

Buried - Dernancourt communal cemetery extension, Somme, France. Grave no. III.H.27.

He also served at Flanders prior to The Somme.

Private Ivan (*Ivin*) Stanley Eades

A groom, he was the son of Alfred (a house painter) and Lydia Eades of Fern Cottage (now Fernside and Barnclose in The Barton), Corston. He was born in Newton St Loe hi 1895 and had two sisters, Dorothea and Eleanor, and a brother, James.



Regiment - Coldstream Guards, 1st Bn. Service no. 11352.

Died -25th January 1915.

Posted - Le Touret memorial, panels 2 and 3, Pas de Calais, France. This means his body was not located.

Private Christopher George Hannam

Son of Henry (a platelayer) and Eliza Hannam of 6 Fidlers Cottages (possibly where The Meadlands now begins and also known as Fidlers Row), Corston. He was born in Corston in 1892 and had three sisters, Florence, Phyllis, and Georgina, and five brothers, Henry W, Bertie, Francis, Percy also on the Roll of Honour), and Alfred.



Regiment - Royal Horse Artillery, 208th Anti aircraft secn. Service no. 63026

Died - 20th July 1917, aged 25 in Mesopotamia.

Buried - Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq.

Private John Edmund Mercer

Son of Simon and Sarah Anne of Bath Road, Corston and formerly of New Road, Huntspill. He was born at Corston in 1890 and had one sister, Louisa. In 1911 he was listed as being resident at Rannillies Barracks, Marlborough Lines, Aldershot.



Regiment - Coldstream Guards, 2nd Bn. Service no. 8092. Enlisted at Bridgewater.

Died - 14th July 1915, aged 25.

Buried - St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Siene-Maritime, France. Grave no. A.5.26.

Private Thomas William Davey

Son of George (a gardener) and Harriet Davey of 1, The Book Cottages, Corston. He was born in 1887 at Corston or possibly Newton St Loe and had two sisters, Amy and Alice, and two brothers, Sidney and Arthur.



Regiment - Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 1st Bn. Service no. 7964.

Died - 9th September 1914, aged 26.

Posted - La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre memorial, Seine-et-Marne, near Paris France. This means his body was not located. A Memorial Book (Somerset Country Memorial, a leather bound book) is purportedly located hi Wells Cathedral.

Sergeant Albert E Janes

Son of Samuel (a labourer on the roads) and Florence Janes of 4 Coffee Pot Cottages, now Shorts, Corston. He is listed in the Somerset Light Infantry as Arthur and was born at Newton St Loe in 1887 and had two brothers, Wilfred and Frederick, and a sister Annie.



Regiment - Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Alberts), 1st Bn. Service no. 146666

Died - 3rd May 1917, aged 31.

Buried - Roeux British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, near Arras, France. Grave no. Sp.Mem.E.4.

(possibly) Private Herbert Edward Miller



1st possibility - Son of Edward (a gardener) and Mary Miller of 3 Manor Cottages, Winsley in 1911/Hanham Abbots in 1901. He was born at Portishead in 1892. Regiment - Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, 1st/1st. Service no. 235765. Died - 22nd November 1918, aged 26. Buried - Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave C.265 The cemetery contains some of those brought from Gallipoli and from the Western Desert.*

2nd possibility - Born Brislington in 1892. Known as Bert. A domestic servant for William Rossiter of West Town house in Keynsham in 1911.

The connection with Corston is unclear here. The War Memorial lists a HH Miller, same Regiment and Service No. etc. but the CWG lists this man, HE Miller. The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars web site only lists HE Miller and census returns do not show him as yet The only other HH Miller is listed as Royal Sussex Regiment with no further details.

More research required.

Private Percy William Hannam

Son of Henry (a platelayer) and Eliza Hannam of 6 Fidlers Cottages (possibly where The Meadlands now begins and also known as Fidlers Row), Corston. He was born in Corston in 1888 and had three sisters, Florence, Phyllis, and Georgia, and five brothers, Henry W, Bertie, Francis, Christopher also on the Roll of Honour), and Alfred.



Regiment - Somerset Light Infantry, 1st Bn. Service no. 7904.

Died - 1st July 1916, aged 28

Buried - Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave no. IX.B.14.

Sergeant Walter Smith

Son of Walter (a carter on the farm) and Ellen Smith of 5 Brook Cottages, Corston. He was born at Newton St Loe in 1888 and had three sisters, Rosina, Beatrice, and Ethel.



Regiment - South Wales Borderers, 2nd Bn. Service no. 10023. Enlisted at Aberbargoed, Monmouthshire.

Died - 1st July 1916, aged 28.

Posted - Thiepval Memorial (designed by Sir Edward Lutyens), Somme, France, Pier and Face 4A (this means his body has not been located).

Private Derek James Judd

Son of Thomas and Jane Judd of Saltford (*probably Dryleaze*). He was born in Norfolk in 1927.



Regiment - Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (Hereford Regt), 1st Bn. Service no. 14802424

Died - 1st April 1945, aged 18 in the Western Europe campaign.

Buried - Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Grave 61.G.3.

Private Ernest James Brooks

Son of Frances (a contractor on the roads) and Laura Brooks of Stantondury House, Corston. He was born in 1891(?) at Corston and had two sisters, Blanche and Fanny. He was a stone haulier prior to enlistment



Regiment - Somerset Light Infantry 8th Bn. Service no. 20801

Died - 28th April 1917.

Posted - Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, near Arras, France. This means his body was not located.

Ordinary Seaman Victor Percival Barnes

Son of Joe and Ethel Barnes of Ashton Hill (since demolished). He was born 1921 (registered at Keynsham in 1922) and had a sister.



Service - Royal Navy. HMML 187. Service no. D/JX 34508.

Died - 22nd July 1942, aged 21 circumstances unknown.

Buried - Corston churchyard.



HM Motor Launch 187 was a Fairmile B of the 11th ML Flotilla. She was a minelayer in the Humber areas.

Private James Rivers

Son of John (a gardener) Helen Rivers of 9 The Barton, Corston. He was born at Corston in 1898 and had two sisters, Elsie and Nellie and two brothers, William and John.



Regiment - Welsh Regiment, 10th Bn. Service no. 55805.

Died - 19th August 1917, aged 19. Probably in the 3rd battle of Ypres.

Posted - Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, panel 93-94.
This means his body was not located.

Pilot Officer (Air Bomber) Edward Charles Harrill

Son of Edgar and Edith Harrill of Laburnum Cottage, The Barton, Corston. He was born at the cottage in 1915 and has a brother, John who now lives in Southsea, Hampshire.



Service - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 100 Sqn. Service no. 157285.

Died - 4th September 1943, aged 28.

Buried - Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, grave 1.K.17.

Edward Harrill was in a Lancaster Mk m, serial no. JA930 HW-Y which took off at 19.49 hours from Grimsby. The aircraft exploded over Berlin. He had been promoted from Sergeant three days before.