

# Research Reconnaissance



June 2020

This newsletter is intended to keep those interested in our research informed of progress.

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## Progress:

In the last newsletter (February) I reported that the old website had about 5,700 biographies and can confirm that with the help of our volunteers we are now up to about 10,270.

As always this is never the whole story, many of the biographies now contain much more information than before and many more have more information being added currently. Some duplicates that appeared during the uploading process have now been merged, reducing the overall total, but improving quality. There are still more of these to be done.

I have over 1400 biographies which another project has shared with us and I have now prepared them for bulk upload, however these will contain an unknown number which will already have some form of biography. These will only appear on the website after being sense checked and approved, which is obviously another big job.

## New Photographs:

Following information supplied by Gareth Hughes, I have been able to contact Mike Neighbour.

About 15 years ago Mike found out that the original photographs from the Herts Advertiser were being deliberately destroyed (not the responsibility of the current owner). He set about saving the printed copies by re-photographing them – this was a truly huge task!

With great generosity he has provided us with a copy of all the photographs (men and some women) who appeared between 1914 and 1919. This has provided about 1600 photographs, not always of great quality, but most of which we have not seen before and may be the only image we will ever have of a man or woman. Clearly this is a huge step forward for our project and I must publicly thank him.

I have now been through each one, undertaken some digital improvement and prepared them for uploading to our biographies. They represent war dead and survivors and also some munition workers, all will be uploaded unless better photographs exist. The first group will be as soon as possible, either by me, or perhaps more likely by the original biography researcher. Who I expect like me, will find it a joy to add a face to a man they have worked to commemorate. The uploading of survivors is a little specialist, but quite easy and it would be great if I could find someone to help with this work to speed it up – any volunteers? Happy to discuss how this can be done.

## Research preparation:

Many locations have been prepared for researching, and others, where some research exists, are prepared for uploading.

## What is needed, and will you help?

We still need lots of help and it could be research online using genealogy sites or processing existing work or even visiting locations in your town, city or around Hertfordshire. A more detailed overview is:

### Research:

- Research the men on memorials
- Uploading existing biographies to the HAW database
- Choosing an element of research, e.g. service medals to add to existing biographies
- More detailed biographies for key figures and your family members:

### Memorials:

- There are still many memorials for which we do not yet have photographs. Now that travelling is permitted, perhaps you could photograph external ones that are convenient to you?
- Writing, or where details already exist elsewhere, seeking permission to use that information. The text can be basic, great detail or anywhere in between and will accompany our photographs, old and new. The text might cover the memorial's location and how to find it, its construction and perhaps something about its history.

### Looking for problems: e.g.

- Duplicated entries in a location
- Whether biographies correctly list that the man is 'on' or 'not on' a location's memorials and those listed are correct.

If you are curious or seriously interested please contact [jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk](mailto:jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk) or make contact via the website. An enquiry is not a commitment. You can work at your own pace and any help needed can be given, including group or one to one online meetings.