

Not Just a List of Names



Roger Yapp

BACK TO THE FRONT

Great War Commemoration Project

Abbots Langley and Bedmond

Cover photo: Church Parade Abbots Langley 1914

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Introduction

In 2006 I started to research the life and times of a man called Walter John Edward Owen, discovering what happened to him during the time he spent as a soldier in the Great War. He had lived in a property close to the end of what is now my garden at Trowley Bottom, Abbots Langley. I had just returned from a trip to northern France where with a good friend of mine I had spent a long weekend tracing the footsteps of three of his great uncles during their time serving in the Great War. They had all been killed in action. It was fascinating and at the same time very emotional, and immediately I returned I tried to find out if anyone from my family had served in the War. If they had served then I would have been intrigued to find out what had happened to them. However, during the Great War my family lived close to the Thames to the east of the City of London, and had either worked as Dockers or at the Woolwich Arsenal, making munitions. They hadn't volunteered or been conscripted into the services.

So I looked closer to home at Abbots Langley and after checking the names listed on the local War Memorial, I found Walter. Researching Walter took some time, but eventually I had completed the story of "The Man from the Bottom of My Garden". It was an interesting journey and a great detective story, piecing together Walter's family life as well as his service record through to his untimely death at the age of twenty-one during the Battle of the Somme.

Walter was just one of eighty-one names on the Abbots Langley War Memorial. I had regularly passed the Memorial and glanced at the names listed on each of the faces. Having researched Walter I realised that behind each and every one of those names there was a story. Each person had a family, a job, a service record and of course had died as a result of the Great War. Then there was the question about all of those men and women that had served during the Great War, and had survived and returned? Where were they recorded, as they would have stories too?

So it began. Firstly I worked my way through the eighty-one names from the Abbots Langley War Memorial. Secondly with the help of the team at the St Lawrence Church office I found that the Parish Magazines included a Roll of Honour each month during the War, listing the names, ranks and units of all of the men that were serving. From these lists another 390 men were identified. Thirdly, during the research another 195 men and one woman were discovered, previously unrecorded in any of the Abbots Langley Parish records. Included in this new group were several men that had died as a result of the War, but for reasons unknown had not been included on the Abbots Langley War Memorial. In total the stories of 666 men and one woman from Abbots Langley and Bedmond have been included here.

In addition 344 men and three women have been identified for the Parish of Kings Langley; 224 men and one woman for Langleybury/Hunton Bridge; and over 400 men for Leavesden. Their stories will be completed and published in due course.

In an Abbots Langley Parish Magazine in 1919, Vicar Parnell announced that "a book will be published for sale to include the particulars of all who served". It is unlikely that this book was ever published. However, one hundred years later it has.

The Lists of Names

When the War Memorial at St Lawrence church at Abbots Langley was unveiled on Sunday 21st December 1919, the names of eighty-one men from the Parish had been inscribed on the eight faces of the monument.

Where did these men live, were they related, where did they work, where did they serve, and what became of them? Each and every man had a story to tell, and the "Back to the Front" Project set out to research, record and remember all of them, so that they were not just a list of names.

The Memorial recorded only those that had died during, or as a result of the conflict. But what about those that served, survived and returned? Where were they recorded and remembered?

When the guns fell silent at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in November 1918, and the Great War ended, plans were already underway at Abbots Langley to erect a War Memorial to remember the fallen from the Parish for evermore. In the Parish Magazine of April 1917 Vicar Parnell commented that he and "some others are taking steps to get a design for a permanent memorial".

The War finally ended on 11th November 1918, and a committee was set up in January 1919, led by Sir Robert Kindersley to raise funds and to commission the building of a War Memorial for the village. Sir Robert Kindersley had leased Langley House at Abbots Langley for several years. He was a businessman, stock broker, merchant banker and public servant, and from 1914 had been a Director of the Bank of England. His two sons had both served in the War. Second Lieutenant Lionel Kindersley, his elder son, had been killed in action at Bourn Wood during the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917, shot through the head bravely leading his men, whilst his younger son Hugh survived the War. Mr Henry Henderson from Serge Hill took the role of Treasurer; however, this post was later taken over by his daughter Miss Violet Henderson due to her father being required to spend a lot of time away on business.

Public subscription was encouraged to cover the costs for the Memorial. The costs were estimated to be £600 and there was a very slow response from the villagers. Eventually the costs were covered and a War Memorial was unveiled at St Lawrence Church, Abbots Langley on Sunday 21st December 1919 by Miss Violet Henderson. The Memorial included eighty-one names. Each year on Remembrance Sunday villagers continue to attend a service at the War Memorial to remember and commemorate those that gave their lives in the Great War. Today all those that have suffered or have died in any conflict throughout the world are also remembered.

So what about those that served and survived the War and returned to continue their lives? Where were they recorded, remembered and are being commemorated?

In September 1914 the Archdeacon of St Albans suggested that a Roll of Honour should be made for every Parish and it should be published conspicuously in every church. At Abbots Langley Miss Florence Sadler from Abbots Road took on the task of recording the names,

ranks and units of those from the Parish that were serving. Her immaculate hand-writing recorded the details in ledgers which were displayed at St Lawrence Church, and she was commended for her beautiful work on many occasions by Vicar Parnell. Each month her ever lengthening lists formed the basis of the Parish Roll of Honour which was printed in the Parish Magazine. As soon as families or friends received information from their loved ones at the Front, and advised Miss Sadler, a change would be made to the Roll of Honour for publication the following month. If a man had been promoted, or had changed his unit, or had been listed "missing", "wounded", or "killed in action" it would be recorded.

At the end of the War there were 471 men recorded on the final Roll of Honour in December 1918. At that point seventy-eight men had been killed in action or died from sickness or their wounds. Later another seven died between 11th November 1918 and 5th September 1920, and their deaths were subsequently recorded in the Parish Records. Only three of them, Arthur Brown, William Baldwin and Albert Yendell, who all died in 1919, were added to the Memorial, making a total of eighty-one names. Four more that died in 1920 were not subsequently added.

Whilst researching the 471 men from the Roll of Honour, nearly 200 more men from the Parish have been identified. When the various lists are added and combined 666 men and one woman from the Parish of Abbots Langley have been discovered serving in the Great War. This was approximately one third of the population of the Parish.

Undoubtedly more than one woman served, maybe as nurses, support staff or they moved from the village to work in the munitions industry elsewhere in the country, but their records have not been discovered.

Research

For each of the names on the various lists, the following sources have been checked to identify and confirm as many details as possible in order to create the person's story:

- Parish Magazines
- War memorials
- Family Trees & Ancestry UK records
- Census, Births Deaths & Marriage records
- Service Records
- Pension Records
- NZ, Australian, Canadian Online archives
- Battalion War Diaries
- Family records
- National Roll of the Great War
- Absent Voter Records
- Soldiers Died Great War database
- National & Local press reports
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission database
- Roll of Honour
- National & Local Press
- War Graves Photographic Project
- Battlefield visits
- Museum visits
- National Archive records
- Bedfordshire Regiment website
- Metropolitan Asylum Board records
- Employment records eg railways
- Medal Index Cards
- Medal Roll Cards
- Google search
- Roll of Honour
- Specialist books
- De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour

No criteria, if ever there were any, have been found which were used to confirm that a person qualified to be included on the Abbots Langley War Memorial or on the Parish Magazine Roll of Honour. There did not appear to be any constant criteria for being included. Most men were born in the Parish, or lived in the Parish. Some worked locally or had married local women or were related to families in the Parish. But for some men absolutely no connection with the local area has been found. For some of this group, details of their name, rank and unit were recorded each month in the Parish Magazine, and as their individual record changed over time, so the changes were recorded in the Roll of Honour list. However, it is impossible to identify who was passing on the information to the Church Office to enable the changes to be recorded as no other information can be found to link these persons to the village.

For some men their status in the Parish Roll of Honour frequently changed throughout the period of the War. As their rank or unit changed, so the men must have communicated the change to their family and friends at home, who in turn would have advised the Parish Office. However for some men, no changes are recorded, although they appeared to serve throughout the War. It would have been highly unlikely that a person remained with the same unit throughout the whole War, as service records show that most men frequently changed unit, and it is not known why changes might not have been advised or recorded.

Very few photographs of local soldiers have been found. Towards the end of the War Vicar Parnell asked for photographs of all those serving to be provided so that they could be displayed in the Reading Room (Henderson Hall). It is not known if these photographs were supplied to the Vicar by families and friends, but if they were, then they have not survived. Where it has been recorded we have given credit for photographs, but as many of them have been passed on to us, sometimes second, third or fourth hand, the original credit has been lost. We hope that we don't upset anyone, and if we have done, then we apologise.

Between 1920 and 1922 a series of books entitled the National Roll of the Great War was published. Families were asked for a subscription for each member of the family that had served in the Great War to be included in the book. As families paid for their entry to be included, the published information usually portrayed the soldier in a very positive light. Often the entries were written by the family members and could be very inaccurate. When compared to the official service record the details for individuals could be very different. However, in some cases a reference from the National Roll is the only information that has been discovered for a particular person, so it has been included. Where there is a contention between sources then this has been indicated in the Soldier's story.

The stories have been written over a six-year period. Efforts have been made to check the details for each story, but when creating and in many cases linking such a large number of stories over such a long period inevitably there may be some errors. If there are errors then we apologise – we tried our best. Also with such a large number of stories only a relatively short period of time can be assigned to each story for research. In some cases more time might have revealed more information. However, the details that have been found provide a basis for further research for specific individuals.

Throughout the research we have replicated the spelling, grammar and capitalisation of words that appear in the various types of records for each person. Hence, where appropriate

we have recorded more than one way to spell certain place names such as Breakspeare or Breakspear Road, or Trowley/Trolley Bottom. The differences will often reflect that sometimes words will have been spoken by one person (eg the soldier) and recorded by another, and in many cases the other person would have had no knowledge of the local area, so words were written phonetically, or how they thought best to record them.

The Back to the Front Project

The Back to the Front Project started with the research of one man, Walter Owen, and developed to research, record and remember all those from the local area that served in the Great War. After the initial research of Walter Owen more and more information was amassed. Thought was then given as to what to do with all of it. One outcome has been “Not Just a List of Names”. However, several other events and activities have been developed to present the work of the project to those in the local communities to inform them about the roles of those from the villages and their life and times during the Great War.

At the start of the 100th anniversary of the Great War commemoration period in 2014 the Project staged an Exhibition and Candlelit Vigil at Kings Langley. Over 250 people visited the exhibition which ran for two days. The vigil, which marked the 100th anniversary of the declaration of War on 4th August attracted over 800 visitors.

Work continued between 2015 and 2017 to complete the research and compile the stories of the men and women from the local area, and over 1,200 individuals have been included in this work.

In March 2017 planning commenced for the period leading up to the 100th anniversary of the end of the War which would take place on Sunday 11th November 2018. A committee was formed with representatives from several local organisations, and a series of events was compiled to run throughout 2018. The Committee included:

Wendy Ball	Bedmond Village Task Force & Tin Church
Liz Burns	Royal British Legion
Geoff Cunnington	Herts & Beds Western Front Association
Elaine Johnson	Three Rivers District Council
Jane Lay	Abbots Langley Parish Council
Pam Lewis	Royal British Legion
Delva O'Regan	Abbots Langley Local History Society
Tim Perkins	Abbots Langley Parish Council
The Revd Peter Waddell	St Lawrence Church, Abbots Langley
Roger Yapp	Back to the Front Project

Applications were made to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Abbots Langley Parish Council, Three Rivers District Council, and the Hertfordshire County Council for grant aid and financial assistance to support the project. All of the applications were successful and plans were made for the following activities:

- Development of a Project Web-site
- Great War Talk at Abbots Langley Festival
- Mud & Memorials – clay tile workshops for 250 children at 7 local schools
- Window Stickers & Information Packs for 400 properties where WW1 soldiers lived
- Great War Walks at Abbots Langley & Bedmond
- Concert Party Production at Bedmond
- Music & Drama Production at Abbots Langley
- Exhibitions at Abbots Langley & Bedmond
- Abbots Langley Scouts' role in WW1
- Great War Talks to local organisations
- Attracting over 500 people to the 2018 Remembrance Sunday Service
- Addition of missing names to local War Memorials
- Best Dressed WW1 Shop Window at Abbots Langley
- "Not Just a List of Names" – book
- Stalls at local Fetes & Festivals at Abbots Langley & Bedmond

Back to the Front has evolved as a community based project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. It has encouraged and received a great response from the people of the local area and has ensured that those who served continue to be remembered.

Roger Yapp
Abbots Langley
October 2018

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- Abbots Langley Parish Council for supporting the production of this book through its Grant Aid programme
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- Robin Mann and Michael Lewis for their considerable help and advice with the technical aspects of producing a book
- Pam Rastall and Lorraine Connor (née Perry) at the St Lawrence Church office
- Abbots Langley Local History Society

Albert Harry Abbott
Private
1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry
#16221
Killed in Action 1st July 1916

Information linking Albert ("Bertie") Abbott to Abbots Langley was received from a relation in August 2014. Albert's name was not recorded in any of the Parish records. Private Albert Abbott was born at Charlton-Hawthorne near Sherborne in Dorset in 1897, the son of Ernest and Susan Abbott. In the 1901 Census the family was living at Berry Farm, Whelpley Hill, Buckinghamshire, where Ernest was recorded as a Stockman on a Farm. It is thought that the family then moved to Abbots Langley sometime before 1905 and lived in the Model Cottages at Tibbs Hill. Albert's sister, Dorothy May Abbott was born in Abbots Langley on 8th August 1905. Dorothy married Frederick John Robins from Garden Road in the early 1920's when he returned from the War. The Probate Records for Susan show that she was living at College Cottage, Leavesden, with her husband, Ernest, a Cowman, when she died at Peace Memorial Hospital in Watford on 24 January 1928, following a motor car accident.

Little is known about Albert's whereabouts, until he enlisted at Yeovil with the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry and on 1st June 1915 arrived in France. The "Soldiers Died in the Great War" archive indicated that he was a resident of Charlton Hawthorne. He was killed in action on 1st July 1916, on the first day of the infamous Battle of the Somme, and was buried at Thistle Dump Cemetery, Longueval, some distance from where the 1st Somerset Light Infantry was in the Front Line attacking the German redoubt, "the Quadrilateral", near Serre. The battalion suffered 464 casualties on the 1st and 2nd July 1916.

Albert's three brothers-in-law, Frank, Lewis and Percy Robins all survived the War.

Frederick Aherne
Driver
8th Reserve Battalion, Royal Field Artillery
#258300
Survived

Frederick Aherne was listed in the Absent Voter Records for Abbots Langley for Autumn 1918 and Spring 1919. He was serving as a Driver with the 8th Reserve Battalion of the Royal Field Artillery. He gave his address as 72 Marlin Square, Abbots Langley.

No other information has been identified for this man, and he was not included in any of the other Parish records.

Frederick Aherne survived the War.

Arthur Ernest Aldridge
Sergeant
Hertfordshire Yeomanry; Royal Berkshire Regiment
#5892, 36229 & 105156
Survived

Arthur Aldridge was one of four sons born to George and Emily Aldridge. The couple also had a daughter. George was a Butcher by trade and in 1911 was living in Adrian Road, Abbots Langley. The family farmed in the Gade Valley, and in June 1918 the Hertfordshire Advertiser reported that George and Emily Aldridge were living at Home Park Farm in Kings Langley. They also owned land near modern-day Francis Coombe School and a substantial Butchery in St Albans. Three of George's sons served in the Great War, and all survived.

Arthur was born on 26th April 1895 at Abbots Langley. At the time of the 1911 Census he was employed as a Railway Clerk. He was recorded in the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour from September 1914, serving with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry, and was listed with this unit right through the War. However the Medal Roll indicated that he served at some point with the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

In December 1915 the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine noted that Arthur and his brother George, who was also listed with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry, were both suffering from dysentery and typhoid. Throughout 1915 the Yeomanry served at Gallipoli and it is likely that the brothers were taken ill around the time that the unit was evacuated to Egypt. The Hertfordshire Yeomanry served in Egypt, returned to the Western Front, and ended the War in Mesopotamia.

On 15th June 1918 the Hertfordshire Advertiser reported that Arthur had been awarded the Croix du Guerre with Palme, indicating that it was won in action.

"Sergt Aldridge, Herts Yeomanry, son of Mr and Mrs G Aldridge, Home Farm, King's Langley, has been awarded the Croix du Guerre for gallantry in the field during operations at the end of 1917. In a letter to Sergt Aldridge's parents, Capt Reginald Abel Smith, his commanding officer, writes – "He has always shown himself absolutely fearless under fire and all the work he has had to do in the field, and there have been one or two difficult jobs he has done in the way that proves that I shall be able to place perfect reliance in whatever he does. The special work for which he has gained this distinction was on November 18th, 1917 (Ed. presume not 8th – illegible), when he accompanied his troop officer, Lieut Newman, in a difficult patrol, which kept them under machine gun and shell fire most of the day, and the result of the patrol proved of considerable value to the later operations. I may add that Lieut Newman was awarded the Military Cross for the same work".

Arthur was recorded in the Absent Voter Records for Langleybury in Autumn 1918 and Spring 1919. He was serving as a Sergeant in the Hertfordshire Yeomanry and his address was given at Home Park Farm.

Arthur Aldridge survived the War. After the War he worked in an amateur capacity with the Hertfordshire Football Association, and became President of the Abbots Langley Cricket Club. He also had success as a sprinter, which was uncommon for a relatively tall man. His brothers, George who rose to the rank of Lieutenant with the 14th Hussars, and Herbert, who served with the Army Service Corps both survived the War.

All three brothers were also included on the Langleybury Roll of Honour.

George Frank Aldridge
Second Lieutenant
#1313 & GS/13854
Hertfordshire Yeomanry & 14th Hussars
Survived

George Aldridge was the eldest of four sons born to George and Emily Aldridge. The couple also had a daughter. George (Senior) was a Butcher by trade and in 1911 was living in Adrian Road, Abbots Langley. The family farmed in the Gade Valley, and in June 1918 the Hertfordshire Advertiser reported that George and Emily Aldridge were living at Home Park Farm in Kings Langley. They also owned land near modern-day Francis Coombe School and a substantial Butchery in St Albans. Three of George's sons served in the Great War, and all survived.

George Aldridge was born in the spring of 1893 at Abbots Langley. At the time of the 1911 Census he was employed at Leavesden Asylum. It is likely that he was serving as a soldier when War was declared in August 1914, or was serving as a Territorial, as George's Medal Roll indicated that he disembarked in France, serving with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry with the rank of Lance Corporal.

The Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour showed that George was serving with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry from the outset of the War, and first listed him in September 1914, when the Magazine published its first Roll of Honour list.

In December 1915 the Parish Magazine recorded that George and his brother Arthur were both reported suffering from dysentery and typhoid. At that point both men were serving with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry. The Yeomanry had fought through the Gallipoli campaign, and returned to Egypt in December 1915.

George's Medal Roll Card noted that he was commissioned into the 5th Reserve Regiment of the Cavalry on 23rd July 1917. Later that year, on 4th December, George married Ethel Harvey from Abbots Langley at St Lawrence Church in the village. At that point the Church records recorded that George was serving with the 14th Hussars.

George and his two brothers, Arthur and Herbert, all survived the Great War. Arthur served with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry in Gallipoli, France, Egypt and Mesopotamia, whilst Herbert served as a Private with the Army Service Corps. All of the brothers were listed in the Langleybury Roll of Honour.

George was recorded in the Absent Voter Records for Langleybury, for Autumn 1918, Spring 1919, and Autumn 1919, serving as a Lieutenant with the 14th Hussars. His address was given at Home Park Farm.

George's Medal Roll information indicated that he may have remained in the Cavalry after the War ended.

Herbert Joseph Aldridge

Private

#54/090164

Army Service Corps

Survived

Relatively little is known about Herbert Aldridge's record in the Great War. He was one of three brothers from Abbots Langley that joined up and served throughout the War. Herbert was the youngest of the three brothers, and the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour first listed him in May 1915, and indicated that he was serving with the Army Service Corps (ASC). He was regularly recorded each month through to the end of the War serving with the ASC.

Herbert Aldridge was one of four sons born to George and Emily Aldridge. The couple also had a daughter. George was a Butcher by trade and in 1911 was living in Adrian Road, Abbots Langley. The family farmed in the Gade Valley, and in June 1918 the Hertfordshire Advertiser reported that George and Emily Aldridge were living at Home Park Farm in Kings Langley. They also owned land near modern-day Francis Coombe School and a substantial Butchery in St Albans.

Herbert's two older brothers, George and Arthur, both served with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry from the outset of the War. George rose through the ranks and by the Armistice was serving as a Second Lieutenant with the 14th Hussars. Arthur continued with the Yeomanry and served at Gallipoli, in Egypt and Mesopotamia and on the Western Front.

Herbert was recorded in the Absent Voter Records for Langleybury for Autumn 1918 and Spring 1919, serving with the rank of Private with the Army Service Corps. His address was given at Home Park Farm.

All three brothers survived and were also recorded on the Langleybury Roll of Honour.

Charles John Alexander
Private
#40971
11th Battalion Essex Regiment
Died of Wounds 1st June 1918
Aged 27

Charles Alexander was born in Bushey in the spring of 1891 to Charles and Emma Alexander. Charles (senior) was a Brickmaker/Labourer. The family of four sons and three daughters lived at 32 Upper Paddock Road, Bushey at the time of the 1901 Census. By 1911 Charles (junior) was still living at the family house and was working as a House Painter.

The Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour first listed Charles serving with the 3rd Battalion Northampton Regiment in March 1917. However he had been with this battalion for some time as at the time of his marriage to Florence Matilda Thatcher on 21st September 1916, at Abbots Langley, he was registered as a Private with the 3rd Northampton's. The Thatcher family lived at 8 Adrian Road, and three of Florence's brothers served during the Great War.

In the January 1918 Parish Magazine Charles was listed serving with 11th Essex, and it is not known when he transferred to this battalion. Charles' Service record does not survive so it has not been possible to identify the circumstances of his death. He was recorded dying from his wounds on 1st June 1918.

The Abbots Langley Parish Magazine of July 1918 recorded his death

"We regret to have to add another name to our Roll of Honour of those who have laid down their lives in the cause of Liberty, Freedom and Honour. Charles John Alexander of the Essex Regiment, died of wounds received in action on June 1st. He was married in Abbots Langley Church in September 1916 to Miss Florence Thatcher, and to her, together with his other relatives and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy".

Charles Alexander was buried at Esquelbecq Military Cemetery, France and was commemorated on the Abbots Langley War Memorial.

Charles Henry Allen
Rank unknown
Hertfordshire Yeomanry
Survived

Very little is known about Charles Allen's record during the Great War. The Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour showed that he served with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry from November 1914 and he was recorded with that unit for the duration of the War. No other records have been found to confirm this. The Hertfordshire Yeomanry served at Gallipoli, in Egypt and Mesopotamia and also on the Western Front, but it is not known if Charles was involved in these campaigns.

Charles was born in the winter of 1883. He was one of eight children born to Edward and Eliza Allen – five sons and three daughters. In 1881 the family lived in Adrian Road, Abbots Langley. Edward, a retired Metropolitan Policeman, was employed as an Asylum Attendant. By the time of the 1901 Census the family had moved to Abbots Road. Charles was 18, and was employed as a Teacher at a National School. In 1911 he was still living at Abbots Road, but working at as a School Master at the St Pancras School at Leavesden.

Charles was recorded in the Hertfordshire Absent Voter Lists in Autumn 1918, serving, with a home residence of Abbots Road, Abbots Langley. As these Lists were compiled from February 1918 onwards, indicated that towards the end of the War Charles was still an Abbots Langley resident, however it did not confirm when he was de-mobilised or which Unit he was serving with.

Charles Allen survived the Great War.

Frank George Allaway
Private
12th Kings Royal Rifle Corps
#56470 & 415311
Survived

Unravelling Frank Allaway's record has been difficult. He was born in Abbots Langley between April and June 1897, and was baptised on 6th June of that year. The Birth Record for Frank noted his family name as Alloway, however the family was recorded in the 1901 and 1911 Census as Allaway. His father, George Allaway, was born at Bucks Hill, and was employed as a Carman for a Railway Company, and George, his wife Sarah, and Frank lived at Kitters Green at the time of the 1901 and 1911 Census. Henry and Caroline Allaway, also lived at Kitters Green in 1911, and were both born at Bucks Hill, and although unconfirmed it is believed that Henry was George's father, and Frank's grand-father. At the end of the War, Frank was recorded in three separate Absent Voter Lists with the name Allaway.

It is suggested that the family name was Allaway and not Alloway, although Alloway was the name recorded in the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour.

In the 1911 Census Frank was recorded working as a Grocer's Errand Boy, aged 14. He was the only child of George and Sarah Allaway, and was first recorded in the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour in November 1914, serving with the Hertfordshire Territorials. It is not certain when he transferred to the 68th Provisional Battalion but he was recorded serving with that unit in January 1917. At the outset of the War the Territorial Force was immediately mobilised for home defence. In May 1915 Coastal Defence Battalions, known as Provisional Battalions, were formed. The 68th Battalion was stationed at Lowestoft. Later in the War the 68th Provisional Battalion became the 18th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. From January 1918 Frank was recorded in the Roll of Honour serving with the 11th Bedfordshire's, but it is not known the exact date at which he transferred. Frank served beyond the Armistice and in the Absent Voter Records of Autumn 1918, Spring 1919 and Autumn 1919, he was listed serving with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). His Medal Roll Card confirmed that he was with the 12th Battalion KRRC.

Frank Allaway survived the War.

Edward Whyte Alment
Captain
Royal Army Medical Corps
Survived

Edward Alment was born in the spring of 1877 at Forest Gate, the youngest of two children born to Edward John and Mary Alment. The family lived in the West Ham in east London until after 1901. By the time of the Census in 1901, his sister May had left the family home. Edward was recorded as a Medical Student, and went on to qualify as a Doctor. By 1911 the Alments had moved to "Arycot" in Abbots Road, Abbots Langley. Edward (senior) was described as a "widowed" and a Chemical Manufacturer in the 1911 Census, whilst Edward (junior) worked from the family home as a Medical Practitioner, and served the community of Abbots Langley.

In August 1912 Edward married Emily Reed at a wedding in Northumberland, but his new wife died in 1913, aged 23.

The Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour listed Edward serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in November 1914. The following month he had joined the 9th Gloucester's RAMC with the rank of Lieutenant, and he was listed with this unit throughout the following months. After serving some time near to the Front, he was attached to No 2 General Hospital at Le Harve.

In April 1915 the Parish Magazine reported - *"His many friends in the Parish will be glad to hear that Dr Alment is doing good work in the Base Hospital at Harve. Through the kind instrumentality of Mr Higgins a bed-lift, which was much needed, has been sent out to him. The cost of this was £6 8s 6d, which was met by £2 from the collection in Church for Red Cross, 18s 6d from Mr Higgins and 10s each from Mrs Cleasby, Mrs Kindersley, Miss Henry, Mr Inett-Ward, Mrs Kemp, Mr Baxter and the Vicar."*

In July 1915 more news about Dr Alment was received by the Parish Magazine – *"Some little time back some few friends sent out to Dr Alment, who is at one of the Base Hospitals in France, a bed lift, of the sort not supplied by the War Office, but of the greatest service in surgical cases. So useful did this bed lift prove that he wrote home asking if he could be provided with six more, and these Mr Higgins most kindly sent out at once and defrayed the cost, which has since been met by contributions from the community. A total of £35 12s was collected". Dr Alment in acknowledging the receipt wrote to Mr Higgins :- "The seven bed lifts I wrote you about have safely arrived and have proved most useful; they have proved a great source of comfort to the badly wounded as their use entails far less moving of the patient than would be necessary without them. It is a source of much gratification to the staff here to know that those at home are taking such an interest in our wounded, and are willing to give such generous help".*

In January 1917 Edward met Nurse Alice Slythe at No 2 General Hospital at Le Harve. After several months near the Front at Ypres and on the Somme, Alice was posted to No 2 General. Alice returned home in May 1917, and the Parish Magazine reported that Edward was discharged disabled in December 1917, and returned home where he married Nurse Slythe in the same month. The couple continued as Doctor and Nurse in the village for many years after the War.

Edward Alment survived the War.

Arthur Reginald Almond
Private
19th Rifle Brigade
#5698, 14183, 21153 & 213341
Survived

Arthur Almond was born in Bedmond in the autumn of 1897. He was one of six children (four sons and two daughters) born to John and Grace Almond from Bedmond. John worked as an Agricultural Labourer. Arthur's younger brother Stanley also served in the Great War. In the 1901 and 1911 Census the family lived at Bedmond Cottage, Bedmond.

Arthur was first recorded in the October edition of the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour, serving with the Bedfordshire Regiment. His Medal Roll Card indicated that he moved to France on 18th March 1915, and in April 1915 the Roll of Honour showed that he was serving with the 4th Bedfordshire's. By June 1915 he had transferred to the 2nd Bedfordshire's and was recorded with that unit until January 1917, when he was listed with the Imperial Camel Corps. The Camel Corps was formed in Egypt in January 1916 and mainly comprised Australians returning from Gallipoli. It is not known when Arthur moved to Egypt or when he transferred to the Camel Corps, as the 2nd Bedfordshire's fought on the Western Front throughout 1915 and 1916, at Festubert, Loos, and on the Somme.

The Camel Corps fought in the Battles of Gaza in 1917, and in the pursuit of the Turks to Jerusalem, but when the Army in Egypt was reorganised the Corps was broken up in June 1918. Troops were transferred to Mounted Infantry units, horses replacing their camels, and some men found themselves being posted to the Infantry. The Parish Roll of Honour, and three Absent Voter Lists between Autumn 1918 and Autumn 1919 indicated that Arthur served with 19th Rifle Brigade in Egypt.

Arthur Almond survived the War, as did his brother Stanley.

Stanley John Almond
Rank unknown
Survived

Stanley Almond was listed in the Absent Voter Records for Abbots Langley for Spring 1919, however his rank and service unit were not given. The Record did however confirm that Stanley's address was at Bedmond. He was not included in any of the other Parish records.

Stanley Almond was born in Bedmond on 4th May 1899. He was one of six children (four sons and two daughters) born to John and Grace Almond from Bedmond. John worked as an Agricultural Labourer. Stanley's elder brother Arthur also served in the Great War. In the 1901 and 1911 Census the family lived at Bedmond Cottage, Bedmond.

Stanley Almond survived the War, as did his brother Arthur.

William Henry Anderson
Private
Royal Army Medical Corps
#82005 & 80664
Survived

Little information regarding William Henry Anderson has been identified. He was first recorded in the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour in January 1916, where he was listed serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). He was recorded each month through to the end of the War, and was also listed in the Autumn 1918, Spring 1919, and Autumn 1919 Absent Voter Records, again serving with the RAMC. In the Autumn 1919 Absent Voters Record he was listed as William Victor Anderson

In Autumn 1918 he was shown serving with the 35th Company of the RAMC, but when the Spring 1919 information was collected he had transferred to the 7th Company of the RAMC and was based at the 4th Southern General Hospital at Devonport. In the Autumn 1919 Absent Voter List he was still at the General Hospital in Devonport. In the Absent Voter Lists he gave his home address as Asylum Road, Abbots Langley in the first two records, and in the Autumn 1919 List his address was given as Vowler Villa, Abbots Langley. Vowler Villa comprised two residences between modern Numbers 66 and 74 Breakspeare Road.

The Parish Magazine recorded that during the course of the War, three daughters were born to William Henry and Mabel Jane Anderson. The children were born in June 1915, and on 28th July 1918 and 10th October 1919.

William Henry Anderson does not appear in Census Records. It was possible that he came to the area to work at the Asylum, as many did, and joined the RAMC, again as many Asylum Attendants did throughout the War. Attendants tended to live close to the Asylum, and his return to the Asylum Road area at the end of the War may also be a clue to his occupation and reason for being in Abbots Langley.

William Henry Anderson survived the War.

William George Andrews

Private

1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment; 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

#203918

Survived

William Andrews was born in 1900 at Hatfield, the only child of John and Beatrice Andrews. At the time of the 1901 Census the family lived at Pimlico, Abbots Langley. John worked as a Horseman on a Farm.

William was first listed in the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour in July 1916, where he was listed serving with the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. In the January 1917 Roll of Honour he continued to be listed with the 1st Suffolk's, but by the January 1918 Roll he was not mentioned, and remained unlisted until the final, complete, Roll of Honour was published in December 1918. At that point he was shown serving with the Bedfordshire's, but it is not known which battalion, or when he transferred from the 1st Norfolk's.

William remained in the Army, after the Armistice and was recorded in the Autumn 1918 and Spring 1919 Absent Voter Lists, serving with the 1st Bedfordshire's. In both lists he gave his home address as "The Retreat Lodge", Abbots Langley.

William Andrews survived the War.

Richard William Annear
Staff Sergeant
20th Sanitary Section, Royal Army Medical Corps
#527078
Survived

Richard William Annear was born in the winter of 1887 in Abbots Langley. He was the only son of Richard and Harriet Annear. Richard (Senior) was born in Cornwall and was employed as a School Master at the St Pancras Industrial School for Orphans at Leavesden. The family lived in and around Marlin Square living at Elm Villa (1891), 26 Marlin Square (1901) and "Homeland" (1911).

In the 1911 Census Richard William was recorded employed as a Surveyor. He was first recorded in the October 1914 edition of the Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). From February 1916 through to the end of the War Richard was listed serving with the Sanitary Company of the RAMC, and in the Absent Voter List for Autumn 1918 he was recorded with the rank of Staff Sergeant with the 20th Sanitary Section, RAMC.

RAMC Sanitary Sections checked the sanitation of all barrack areas, billets, cookhouses, washing facilities, waste disposal, incineration, and water conservation systems. Only highly trained personnel were used in this service which included Sanitary Inspectors, Architects, Engineers, and Builders. Richard's background as a Surveyor set him in good stead for this role.

Richard William Annear survived the War and was discharged to return home on 10th February 1919. His brothers in law, Bertrand and Francis Hill both survived the War, but his brother in law Arthur Hill died from wounds received at the Battle of Aubers Ridge in 1915.

Charles Griffin Ansell
Company Sergeant Major
#24001
26th Royal Fusiliers
Survived

Charles (senior) and Annie Ansell lived at Railway Terrace, Abbots Langley in 1891, and had five children, two sons and three daughters. Charles worked as a House Painter. Charles Griffin Ansell was the younger of the sons and was born in the winter of 1885 at Abbots Langley. He was baptised at Abbots Langley on 19th September 1890.

The National Roll of the Great War noted that Charles volunteered in 1914, and he was reported in the 17th October 1914 edition of the Hertfordshire Advertiser in the Asylum Roll of Honour, which listed the men from Leavesden Asylum that had joined up. His elder brother George was also recorded in this list. The Abbots Langley Parish Magazine Roll of Honour listed him serving with the Royal Fusiliers, and continued to record his service with the Royal Fusiliers each month throughout the War.

The Abbots Langley Parish Magazine recorded that his wife, Bessie, gave birth to a son on 24th September 1916.

The National Roll noted that Charles was engaged at various stations as a Drill Instructor until September 1918, when he was drafted to the Western Front. Later in 1918 he proceeded with the Army of Occupation to Germany. He was recorded in the Absent Voter Records for Autumn 1918 and September 1919, and in both records he gave his home address at 18 Breakspeare Road, Abbots Langley. In the Autumn Record he was serving as a Company Sergeant Major with the 51st G Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment and in Spring 1919 was with 26th Royal Fusiliers. He returned home and was demobilised in April 1919.

His brother George was wounded twice, but both brothers made it through the War.

