



WAR GRAVES
and
MEMORIALS
at
ST. LUKE'S

War Graves In the United Kingdom

Commonwealth servicemen and women who died on active service abroad during the two World Wars were buried there. Their graves are for the most part in specially constructed war cemeteries now cared for by the War Graves Commission.

Many of the casualties of war, however, died at home or in military hospitals of wounds, sickness and disease, or in training accidents and air-raids. Some were killed in action in the air or at sea in coastal waters and their bodies washed ashore. As war-time service burials for those who died in their home country were not rigorously regulated, they were laid to rest not in war cemeteries, but often in locations chosen by their families. Some of these graves are in parish churchyards, like St. Luke's in Hatfield, others in municipal cemeteries or in huge private burial grounds dating from Victorian times. By far the majority of the burials, many in family graves, are scattered throughout cemetery grounds.

In all there are Commonwealth war graves in almost 12, 500 different locations throughout the United Kingdom. In St. Luke's churchyard alone there are 22 war graves. - 10 with the recognisable war grave headstone and 12 in family graves.





(1) A.M.I. R.A.F. J. A. Starkey
Died 6 Nov. 1918 aged 25



(2) Driver J.Frost
Army Service Corps
Died 18 May 1917



(3) Leading Aircraftman A. Leach R.A.F.
Died 19 Feb 1947 Aged 34

(4) Lance-Corporal F.W..Boxall Royal Engineers
Died 28th March 1946 aged 23

(5) Lt. Colonel F.T. Power M.B.E.
Died 25th Dec. 1947Aged 55 years



(6) Driver C.P. Ager REME
Died 12 July 1944 aged 34

(7) Sergeant A. R. Laurence Navigator
R.A.F.
Died 24 Dec. 1943 aged 21

(8) Captain D. Minchin, Royal Artillery
Died 11 Nov. 1940 aged 22

- (9) H.C. Catlin
Died 9th April 1946 aged 34



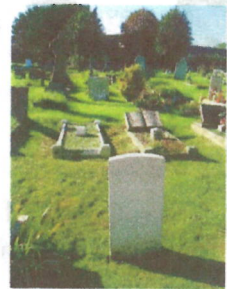
- (10) Corporal A.E. Nichols R.A.F.
Died 1 Nov. 1945 aged 28



- (11) Lance-Corporal C .A. Massam
Died 22 July 1917 aged 21
killed by hostile aircraft

- (12) J. H. Canham died of wounds received in action at Festubert
Died 2nd June 1915 aged 21

- (13) Sapper W. J. Parrott Royal Engineers
Died 8th June 1915 aged 39



- (14) Sadler Sergeant A. W. Walker ASC.
Died on active service
19th Feb. 1915 aged 30

- (15) P. A. Arnett 27th Battalion 6th Brigade 2nd Canadian Division
Died of wounds received in action at St. Eloi.
16th June 1916 aged 19

- (16) 2nd Lieutenant G.A. Powell R.F.C.
of Napier, New Zealand
Died 7th Dec. 1916 aged 27



- (17) 2nd Lieutenant J.H. Walker R.F.C.
Died 16th March 1917 aged 20

(Not in War Graves list)

Henry Gregory 1st Battalion Hon. Artillery Company
Killed in action at Miraumont 8th Feb. 1917 aged 30
Interred at Beaucourt, France.



(18) Pte. J. Munday Essex Regiment
Died 18 Mar. 1917 aged 37
(Egypt)

(19) Serjeant G. Rice
Gloucestershire Regiment
Died 3 Sept 1918

(20) Serjeant H. Davis
Machine Gun Corps (Inf.)
Died 20 Jan. 1920



(21) Sergeant B.Q. Sheppard
Wireless Operator/Air Gunner R.A.F.
Died 23 Dec. 1940 aged 20

(22) J.C. Paterson R.A.F.V.R.
Killed on active service 5th June 1940 aged 23

The De Havilland Memorial

On 3rd October 1940 21 men working at the De Havilland factory site in Hatfield were killed in a bombing attack. A solitary Junkers 88 came low over the airfield and from about 100 feet dropped four high explosive bombs. Another 70 were injured as workers ran to the air-raid shelters. The aircraft responsible was later brought down by a bombardment from the aerodrome's anti-aircraft defences.

Six of the men who died in the bombing and whose bodies were not recovered, are remembered on the memorial in St. Luke's churchyard.

Horace F.C. Allen	37
Harry Fordham	34
Frederick Hartley	27
Frederick W. Gibbs	24
William George Sim	41
John Holmes Smith	26



Others are buried in nearby family graves.



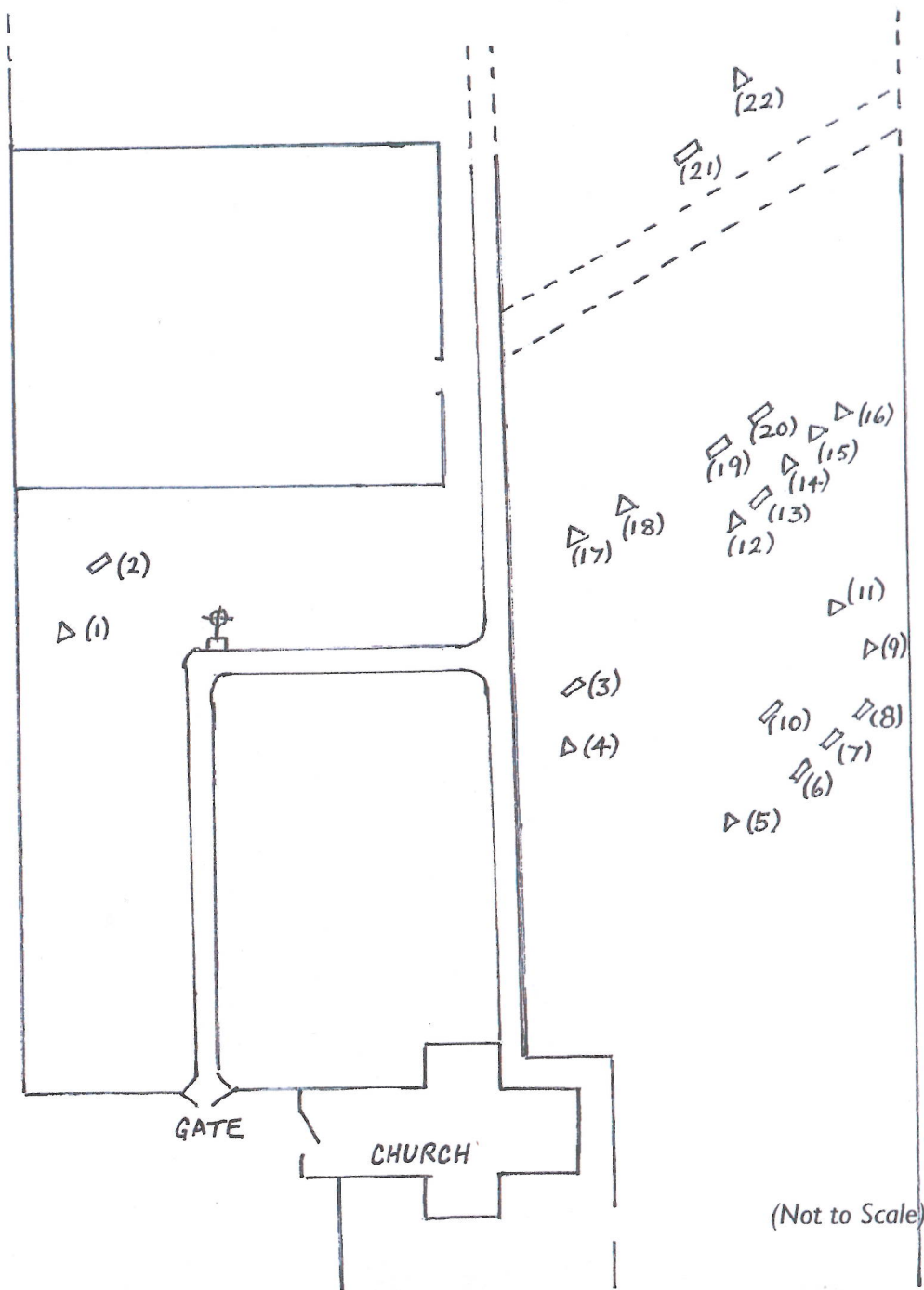
Owen Dawson

The War Memorial

Inside St. Luke's Church there is a War Memorial to those who died in the 1914-1918 War. The area around the church was called New Town, as can be seen from the inscription. A number of the familiar names are repeated, showing that there were some common local names. Some of the families still live in Hatfield. The last resting place of these service personnel lies in another land.



Sketch Plan of the War Graves in St. Luke's Graveyard



(Not to Scale)