

St Mary's Churchyard War Memorials-A Diagrammatic Guide



St Mary's
Harrow on the Hill



RICHARD HAYNES NELSON MINTORN



Private Richard
Haynes Nelson
Mintorn

MI



Capt Stanley
George Wood-
bridge MC

WO



Lieutenant
Ronald
Henry Venn
Chester

CH



Donald Urquhart Lowson
DFC

LO

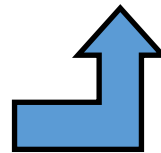


Pilot Officer
Peter Brit-
ten

BR



Byron's
View and
Peachey
Stone



Dr Arthur
Henry
Bindloss

BI

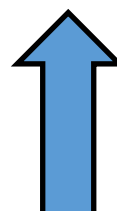
Leaper
family
grave

LE

PATHWAY

Flight Ser-
geant
Wright
Cooper

WR



Church
Door

MI. –The Commonwealth War Grave- Richard Haynes Nelson Mintorn was born on the 29th September 1864 in Harrow, the second son and youngest of four children. His father John was an artist and director of a family business dealing in wax modeling and art supplies from premises in Soho Square and New Bond Street. His mother Elizabeth was a schoolmistress. Richard was baptized on 21st February 1869 at St John's, Pinner. In 1869 the family was living at Woodridings in Pinner. The 1881 Census records the family in Greenhill, near The Marquis of Granby so presumably close to the current sites of Debenhams and Yates. Richard was a Home Boarder at Harrow School from 1877 to 1882. The Harrow Memorials of the Great War states that, after leaving Harrow, he was a mining engineer in Australia and West Africa. He does not appear on the UK Census returns for 1891 and 1901. However, he is listed on the 1911 Census as the proprietor of the Bull Hotel in Frome, Somerset. In January 1915, at the age of 51, Richard joined the 2nd Sportsman's Battalion. He went to France in October 1915 with the 24th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He was on active service until February 1917 when he was wounded. He spent four months in Hospital in France before returning to England for further medical care. Private Richard Mintorn died in the Royal Herbert Hospital, Kidbrooke of pneumonia at the age of 53 on 28th April 1918 He was buried on 2nd May at St Mary's and his grave is in the Lower Churchyard, overlooking Church Fields.

WO. –The last Old Lyonian-Stanley Woodbridge was born in 1896 in Harrow, the fifth son of James and Annie. James was a Licensed Victualler and a member of a well-known Harrow family. At the 1891 Census James was proprietor of the Roxborough Hotel in Harrow. Ten years later, in 1901, James had retired and the family were living at Cartref in Roxborough Park. At the 1911 Census the family had moved to Kenton Lane Farm where Stanley's brother, Ernest, was the farmer. Stanley was working as a Stock Exchange Clerk in 1911. Stanley was educated at John Lyon School where he made an impression as a footballer and talented sportsman. Subsequently he led the Old Lyonians to a long series of victories and was described as "a splendid young fellow" Stanley married Irene Annie Puddefat of Brondesbury on 14th March 1916 and their son, John Stanley, was born on the 26th December 1916. Stanley was gazetted as Lieutenant and joined the 13th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers at the Front on 17th August 1916 during the Somme Campaign. On 25th August 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for "conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty" during an attack on 15th June near Croisilles. The citation stated "at a moment when his company was held up by enemy wire close to their objective, he displayed the greatest gallantry in attacking the wire under very heavy fire, and cutting a way through it for his men. " During an attack in 1918 his leg was shattered by a shell and it was not possible to move him for over six hours. Severely weakened by loss of blood and the amputation of his leg he was too weak to recover. Captain Stanley Woodbridge died of wounds at the age of 22 on 19th December 1918 He is buried in the Lower Churchyard at St Mary's, under a tree, looking out over Church Fields. He was the last Old Lyonian casualty to die in the Great War.

CH. –A St Mary's Choirboy Ronald Chester was born on 22nd March 1898 in Tenbury Wells, the second son of John and Amy Chester. The family moved to Harrow and at the 1911 Census were living at 89 Headstone Road. John and Amy were both teaching at LCC schools. Subsequently the family moved to Longmynd in Boscobel Gardens, off Bessborough Road. Amy Chester was an active member of St Mary's. Ronald was educated at Merchant Taylors School, winning the Richard Hilles Scholarship in 1911. He won an Open Mathematical Scholarship to Brasenose College. He was a keen cricketer and captained the School Eleven in 1915 and 1916. He merits a Wisden obituary which records that "he was a very successful bowler for the school". He was also a member of the Rugby Fifteen and an active member of the School Cadet Corps. At St Mary's Ronald was a chorister until 1913 and then, despite his youth, became a Sunday School Teacher. He was also a member of the Harrow St Mary's second eleven, taking 10 wickets in 1913 and 6 in 1914.

As soon as he could he joined the RFC, deferring his place at Oxford. After gaining his wings he was posted to instruction work. Lieutenant Ronald Chester was killed at the age of 20 in a flying accident on 13th July 1918

LO– A Grave in need of attention-DONALD URQUHART LOWSON DFC-fought in and survived The Battle of Britain in 1940, but died in 1941 while training in a night flying exercise

He was born on 28th April 1913 and was educated at Eastbourne College. On 29th October 1938 he was granted a commission as a Pilot Officer in the RAF. He married Rita May Hughes (from Blackpool) in July 1940 and Rita lived in Harrow. He was flying with 102 Squadron. On 7/7/1941 he was piloting a Whitley bomber from 10 Operational Training Unit at RAF Newmarket on a night navigation exercise. His plane hit a barrage balloon cable near Quinton, Stratford on Avon and crashed with the loss of all 6 crew.

BR– The missed landing-Pilot Officer Peter Britten. He was employed as a co-pilot in an Armstrong Whitworth Whitley bomber based in Wick. This is about as far north and east as one can go on the mainland of Scotland and had an airfield used by Coastal command. He was young but not the youngest and as he had been a Volunteer Reserve, he clearly had an interest in flying. The four-engined bomber took off at 4.10am from Wick for convoy escort duty. The captain was FO. Benzies and a complete crew of six. This was not a training flight but to support a specific convoy. On Saturday 13th March 1943 They flew along the north coast heading west on route to pick up the convoy when they hit a hill Ben Huit at 1340ft, west of Castle Mey. Three were instantly killed and three recovered alive. It appears that it was an attempt at a controlled landing coming in from the sea, as they hit the North side of the hill. The two pilots and navigator were killed in the crash at the front of the plane. One of the survivors appears to have died in hospital from injuries two months later. Peter Britten was aged 19 and 8 months.

BI-The WWI Army Doctor-Honor and Arthur Henry Bindloss. Arthur was born on Sept. 25, 1863 in Archangel, Russia, where his father Edward was the British Chaplain. He became a Harrow doctor and adviser to Harrow School up until World War I. During World War I **Major** Bindloss served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and afterwards he returned to his job at Harrow. He died in 1939. His wife died in 1944. The cross had broken off and was found in amongst the holly bushes. It has been replaced

LE-Brothers whose family still live in Harrow-On October 8th 2017 we met Alan Leaper and his son Clive and children for the Centenary commemoration of Sidney Herbert Leaper's death in WWI. Sidney was Alan's Grandfather—Alan told us that his father's father died when Edward Leaper was only 12. Sidney's brother Arthur is also commemorated on the Roll of Honour, as he was killed in 1915. Alan explained that his family have lots of connections with St Marys—his brothers were local electricians and had put the first aircraft warning lights on the spire! It was a very poignant occasion to have three generations of this local Harrow family, who had joined us to commemorate the death of their grandfather in 1917. Sidney Leaper was born on 11th November 1881 in Hounslow, the son of George and Emily Leaper. The 1891 Census records the family in Crown Street on the Hill, while the 1901 Census shows them at Waldron Road cottages. Sidney and his father were recorded as house painters.

In August 1902 the marriage banns were read at St Mary's for Sidney and his fiancée, Ellen. The 1911 Census shows them living at 41 West Street with two children, Edward and Kathleen. The 1915-16 Kemps Directory gives their address as 34 West Street.

Sidney enlisted in the RASC at Aldershot but subsequently transferred to the 14th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment (the Pompey pals). The 14th landed at Le Havre on 6th March 1916 and saw action in 1916 at Thiepval Ridge and on the Ancre.

In 1917 they were involved in the Battle of Pilkem, at the start of the four month Passchendaele campaign, and then, between 26th September and 3rd October, at Polygon Wood, formerly a dense forest but just blasted stumps interspersed by pillboxes by then.

Rain started on the 3rd and throughout October the weather conditions were bad. The intense artillery fire and the heavy rain turned the ground into a swamp, putting a severe strain on the infantry. On 15th October the 14th Battalion was in the front line at "Tower Hamlets" sector, Menin Road, near Poperinghe/Ypres. "Tower Hamlets" was a German strongpoint, described as a mass of concrete dugouts and pillboxes.

Private Sidney Leaper died in action on 18th October 1917

WR-The pilot who died on Christmas Eve 1943. We found the story of Flight Sergeant Wright Cooper, in Bomber Command Records. With aircraft loaned from 100 Sqdn, seventeen aircraft and crews were briefed for operations and to attack targets in BERLIN. Two aircraft cancelled at the last moment owing to unserviceability. Shortly after takeoff two aircraft collided in mid-air, crashed and were burnt out, the crews of both being killed. One aircraft did not return - no news after take off. Two aircraft returned early, the remainder successfully attacked the targets and in spite of very bad weather conditions over BASE - GRIMSBY landed safely.

RAF 550 Squadron Lancaster JB604 (BQ-K), flown by the F/Sgt Cooper crew, was lost during the night of 23/24 December 1943 when it was in collision with 550 Lancaster ED730 (BQ-G2) and crashed at Fulston at 00.30hrs. All of the men in both crews were killed.

The F/Sgt Cooper crew that night, with stand-in mid-upper gunner Sgt J A Jordan in place of Sgt Bowers, was only on their second operation with 550 Squadron the squadron only having been formed out of 100 Squadron the previous month (and in fact on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission web-site these men are listed as 100 Squadron aircrew).