

**THE MEN OF THE PARISH OF SHALFORD**

**IN NORTH ESSEX**

**WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN**

**FIRST WORLD WAR 1914 – 1919**



**St Andrews Church where the Village War Memorial  
is situated**



*First World War Medals*



## INTRODUCTION

This small village in North Essex did not lose first serviceman until 1915 and even then the man's death was not in action. Thomas Rumsey of the Royal Navy died whilst serving on a Naval Shore Establishment in Portsmouth and is buried in St Andrew's Churchyard with his headstone still there today.

In 1916 the Telegram Boy on his bicycle called on two households with the dreaded yellow or brown envelope containing the news of the death of their loved one. This happened to the parents of Sidney Whitehead and Arthur Watkinson who was died of his wounds just three days after Sidney was killed. Arthur a regular soldier had fought in the South African War for which he received two medals, then one for his service on the North West Frontier in India and then all three of the First World War Medals, the Mons Star, The General Service Medal and the Victory Medal. Sidney Whitehead's body was never found and is commemorated on Walls to the Missing at the Thiepval Memorial in France. Arthur Watkinson does have a grave in France, as he died from wounds in a Field Ambulance Station.

1917 saw three young men from the village losing their lives, George Goodwin, a Territorial Soldier served in the Middle East for the whole of his active service, his body was never found and he is commemorated on the Walls to the Missing at the Jerusalem Memorial in Israel. Then less than five weeks later Albert Adams was killed in France and again his body was never found, but he is commemorated on the Walls to the Missing at the Arras War Memorial in France. The third man to lose his life in 1917 was Frank Smee who died of wounds and is buried in France

The last man to lose his life was Sidney Jeffrey in 1918 and his body was found for a proper burial in the Fauborg d'Amiens Cemetery, just a few yards from the Walls to the Missing where Albert Adams is commemorated, these being part of this cemetery. In the case of Sidney Jeffrey, the telegram went not to his parents, but to his wife in Surbiton, Surrey

The names of these seven brave men from Shalford who gave their lives in the First World War are on the War Memorial in St Andrew's Church together with the names of those from the Second World War. The wooden surround of the memorial was made by my father, Walter Sydney Harvey who served in the Household Battalion in the First World War. He was a founder member of the Wethersfield and Shalford Branch of the Royal British Legion. The Officers Sword and Sam Browne Belt above the memorial was that of a son of the Reverend Ryan who was the Vicar of Shalford at the time.

I have included as an Appendix a Brief History of the Essex Regiment and also the story of the Evolution of the Military Chapel at Warley which is so closely bound to the Regiment.

John W Harvey  
3 Wingate Way, Bourne  
Lincolnshire  
August 2013

## **PETTY OFFICER STOKER THOMAS RUMSEY of the ROYAL NAVY**

Service number 308329 Died on Wednesday 7 April 1915 aged 28

He was born on 22 February 1887 and was serving in the Navy when war was declared on the 4 August 1914.

He served on HMS Actaeon, this being named after `Aetaeon` a figure in Greek mythology. It was a shore establishment that was established on 26 April 1876 as the Royal Navy's Torpedo and Anti Submarine Warfare Branch in Portsmouth. It operated as such until its closure in 1922.

He is buried in St Andrews Churchyard in Shalford, grave no 144 situated in the south west corner of the churchyard. His headstone includes his Bronze Memorial Plaque ( `Dead man`s penny`, as it became known). These were sent to the families of all those who lost their life in the First World War together with a letter from King George V that closed with the words –

*Let those who come after  
See to it  
That his name  
Be not forgotten*

His headstone is exceptionally well maintained and was paid for and erected by his family. The inscription on the headstone reads as follows:-

*His happy face, his friendly clasp  
Are pleasing to recall  
He had a kindly word for each  
And died beloved by all*

He was the son of Thomas and Eliza Rumsey of Shalford

## **PRIVATE SIDNEY WHITEHEAD OF THE ESSEX REGIMENT**

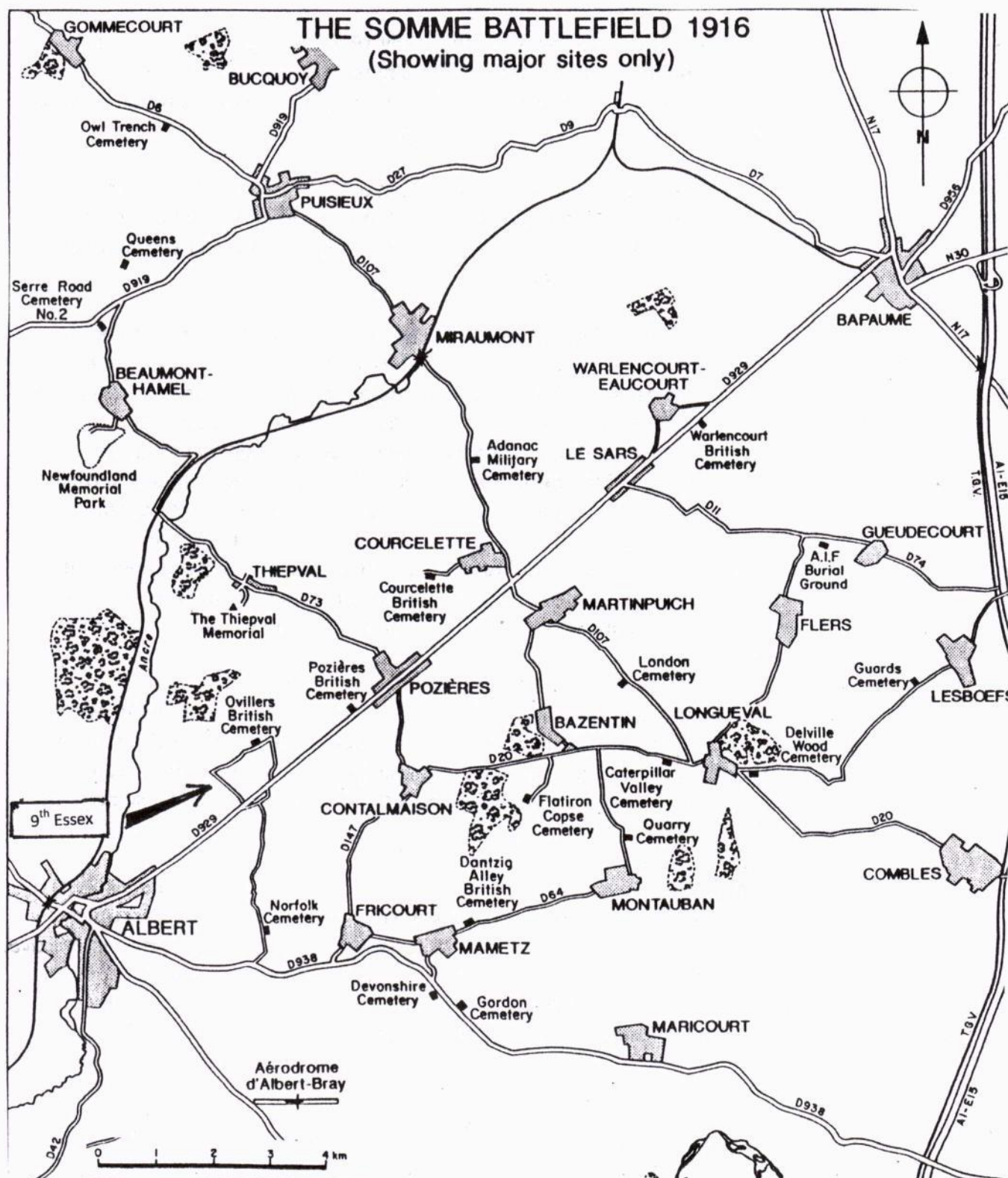
Service number 12533, Killed in Action on 3 July 1916 aged 24

He travelled to Chelmsford to enlist in his County Regiment and served in their 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. This battalion was formed at Colchester in August 1914 and was part of the 35<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 12<sup>th</sup>(Eastern ) Division. Their Divisional Insignia was the `Ace of Spades`. Soon after their arrival in France on the 29 May, they took over a sector of the front line on the 25 June 1915 at Ploegsteert Wood (two of our Prime Ministers fought in this area, Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden). By the 15 July they were in the Armentieres sector. They arrived to take part in the Battle of Loos on the night of 30 September/1 October. Their Divisional Commander, Major General Frederick Wing CB was killed in action on 2 October and his ADC, Lieutenant Christopher Tower DSO was killed by the same shell. The Division



including Sidney Whitehead's 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment suffered very heavy casualties consolidating their position in the Hulloch Quarries whilst under very heavy and continuous German artillery fire.

Alongside our man from Shalford in the 35<sup>th</sup> Brigade were the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment and the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment.





After their efforts in the Battle of Loos the Battalion took part in many minor skirmishes and attacks and were brought back up to strength with new men from Warley who had just finished their basic training. Their next major battle with their Division was the infamous Battle of the Somme that started on the 1 July 1916. After a massive artillery preparation of one week (more than 1500 guns and an expenditure of one million and a half shells, almost 60000 British soldiers just before 7.30am commenced the infantry attack, followed later by a further 50000. In spite of some successes in the south, the attack was a bitter failure.

The casualties suffered by the British Army on the 1 July 1916, the first day of the battle was the worst single day in the history of our Army, with almost 60000 men being killed, wounded or missing. In a single column, spaced at arm's length they would stretch over 30 miles. Their nominal roll would take two weeks to read.

On the whole, it was a brave new army that climbed out of their trenches on that hot summer's morning. It was a citizen army, Kitchener's Army, volunteers all, most new to battle, most young and most to become casualties. One—third of the latter still lie under the battlefield, including Sidney Whitehead.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment took part in the Battle of Arras that started on the 1 July as part of the overall battle. They left their trenches laden down with packs, gas masks, water bottle, rifle and bayonet plus 200 rounds of ammunition, grenades, spade, mess tin, iron rations and mackintosh sheets, warmed by a double tot of rum just before they 'clambered over top'. As the lines moved forward in waves, so our artillery barrage lifted off the German front line and rolled forward. Now it was a life or death race and the Germans easily won the race. They set up their guns before our men could get to their trenches to stop them and cut down the ripe corn of British youth in their tens of thousands. As successive waves moved forward they had to step over the bodies of their wounded and killed comrades. Our soldiers virtually disappeared in huge numbers in the bloody chaos of the battle, with their bodies laying in their hundreds around the thousands of shell holes that pocked the battlefield.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalions line of attack was towards Ovillers on the left hand side of the Albert to Bapaume road. The 12<sup>th</sup> Division of which they were a part relieved the 8<sup>th</sup> Division on the 2 July and spent the rest of the day in reconnaissance and preparation for another attack on Monday the 3 July, it was on this day that Sidney Whitehead was killed and whose body was never found.

He is commemorated on the massive Thiepval Memorial on the Somme (Pier and Face 10 D). This memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector *and* who died in the Somme area before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. It was unveiled by the Prince of Wales on 31 July 1932 in the presence of the President of France.





## THE THIEPVAL MEMORIAL AND CEMETERY

Every year since its unveiling, a service of remembrance is held at the memorial on the 1 July starting at 1030am. There is always one of our Regular Army Bands there and most years a member of our Royal Family attends. Huge crowds gather and the service follows the same pattern every year.

The Introduction to the Service is by our Ambassador to France and is:-

*"We meet on this .....th Anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of the Somme to remember before God all those, of whatever nationality, who gave their lives in that engagement, in the service of their country, together with those whose courage led, finally, to victory.*

*We welcome all those of you who have come today to share in this act of remembrance from Britain, from other countries of Europe and from the Commonwealth, as well as those who live and work here in France".*

The sad notes of the Last Post being played and echoing under the massive arches of this memorial are so fitting after the Army Padre has included in his prayers -

*"Greater love hath no man than this,  
That a man should lay down his life for his friends"*



WHITEHEAD, Cpl. Robert, 17/290. 17th Bn.  
West Yorkshire Regt. 30th July, 1916.

WHITEHEAD, Pte. Robert, 41579. 2nd Bn.  
Manchester Regt. 18th Nov., 1916.

WHITEHEAD, Pte. Rupert, 28142. 13th Bn.  
Cheshire Regt. 4th Sept., 1916.

WHITEHEAD, Pte. Sidney, 12533. 9th Bn.  
Essex Regt. 3rd July, 1916. Age 24. Son of  
Alfred and Polly Whitehead, of Shalford, Panfield,  
Braintree, Essex.

WHITEHEAD, Pte. Stanley, 27034. 8th Bn.  
Loyal North Lancs Regt. 11th Oct., 1916.

WHITEHEAD, Lce. Serjt. Stewart, 7414. 2nd  
Bn. Gordon Highlanders. 20th July, 1916.

2675

Sidney Whitehead's  
name in the Register  
held in bronze cupboard  
at the Thiepval  
Memorial

There are in fact  
949 names of men  
from the Essex  
Regiment who have  
no known grave on the  
walls here

He was the son of Alfred and Polly Whitehead of Shalford

#### PRIVATE ARTHUR WATKINSON OF THE ESSEX REGIMENT

Service number 3/2399, Died of Wounds on 6 July 1916 aged 35

He was the second regular serviceman from Shalford to lose his life in the First World War, the first being Petty Officer Stoker Thomas Rumsey of the Royal Navy.

There was a recruitment poster saying *'Join the Navy and see the world'*, in the case of Arthur Watkinson he could say *'join the Army and see the world'*. Having joined the regular 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment at Warley Barracks towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century he served in South Africa (The Boer War) and was heavily involved in the relief of Kimberley. After the end of the Boer War and home leave he then served in India, Burma and Mauritius, returning to England again in December 1914, landing in Harwich. He and his battalion then moved to Banbury to join the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division and here they were billeted in the town. The Mayor Banbury was notified on 8 January 1915 that the 1<sup>st</sup> Essex Battalion would arrive in his town 10 days later. A Captain Costeker went to Banbury to make arrangements with the Chief Constable of the town who was the Billeting Officer to serve billeting notice on suitable households who were told they had to take a certain numbers of officers and men. Then moved to Warwick on 5 March 1915 where they were again billeted in civilian homes due to extreme shortage of any barrack accommodation. Here they prepared for the parade of the whole of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division on the 12<sup>th</sup> March past King George V before they embarked for Active Service in Gallipoli. There is a huge memorial on the spot where the King stood to take the salute and a service is held there every year on the 25 April, this being the date the Division landed on Gallipoli, The numbers attending grow as each year passes.



They then travelled to Avonmouth to embark for Alexandria in Egypt. The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion arrived here on the 3 April and left for the Greek Island of Mudros on the 14 April to practice for their landing on Gallipoli on the 25 April together with the whole of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division.

The Battalion like all the British troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula were under constant Turkish artillery, machine gun and rifle fire from the day they landed until they left, in the case of the Essex men on the 8 January 1916 ( the final troops left the Peninsula one day later) The Battalion suffered just over 50% casualties including their Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel Godfrey Fausset DSO and Twice Mentioned in Despatches who was killed during their night attack on the 2 May on the Turkish trenches. His body was found and he is buried in the Redoubt Cemetery. In the Twelve Tree Copse cemetery lie 142 officers and men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Essex Regiment, many lie in unmarked graves here and all those who have no marked grave are remembered on the walls at the Helles Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The remnants of the Battalion left for Alexandria to regroup and receive badly needed reinforcements from Warley to bring them back up to full strength. They remained in Egypt until the 16 March 1916 and then embarked for Marseille in France, moving up to the area of the River Somme. They took part in numerous skirmishes against the Germans, but the British Army under General Haig were now in the main preparing for the Battle of the Somme that started on the 1 July.

Just before 7.30am on the 1 July after an artillery preparation of one week (more than 1500 guns and an expenditure of one million and a half shells) almost 60000 British soldiers, followed later by a further 50000, attacked the German positions in the North of the Somme River. The objective of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division including the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment was Beaumont Hamel. A massive mine was fired under one German redoubt, but ten minutes too early and this made it possible for the German defenders to arm their machine guns. The British met very heavy fire and the survivors reaching the German lines fell into intact barbed wire and were mown down by the enemy machine guns. The 1<sup>st</sup> Essex had taken up their position at 3.30am and at 8.30am received their orders to advance and clear the German first line of trenches. However they were unable to leave their trenches until 0905am due to congestion in the communication trenches. To sum up, the attack was a disaster and they quickly became bogged down in 'No mans land' trying to shelter in shell holes. Unbelievably at 1250pm, the Essex men received orders from their Brigade (88<sup>th</sup>) Commander to recommence their attack. But their Battalion Commander advised the Brigade HQ that it was impossible to renew the attack due to very heavy casualties, over 80%. The whole of the Somme attack on the 1 July apart from a small area in the south failed. The day became known as the blackest day in the history of the British Army who suffered around 60000 casualties on that one day. They were then ordered to hold their position along the line of Mary Redan- New Trench-Regent Street. The Newfoundland Regiment on the left of the 1<sup>st</sup> Essex lost 688 men in just a few minutes.



**1<sup>ST</sup> July 1916**



and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment (bottom left)

Arthur Watkinson received his fatal wounds on this day and died 5 days later on the 6 July and is buried in the Louvencourt Military Cemetery. From July 1915 to August 1916 Field Ambulances were established at Louvencourt which was some 6 miles behind the front line on the 1 July. Following the 1916 Somme Offensive, these medical units moved further east and the cemetery was little used until the German advance of April 1918 that pushed the British line back to its old position. There are 151 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery and 76 French Graves. It also contains 3 graves from the Second



World War. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and was one of the first three Imperial War Grave Commission Cemeteries to be built after the end of the War.



The grave of Private  
Arthur Watkinson of the  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn Essex Regiment  
In the  
Louvincourt Military  
Cemetery in France

Extract from the  
Cemetery Register  
with Arthur's entry  
between that of a  
French Soldier and a  
Private Wheeler from  
Banbury

TUNLEY, Private, WILLIAM JOHN, 3372. 1st/2nd Bn. Monmouthshire Regiment. Killed in action 1st July 1916. Age 26. Son of John and Hannah Tunley, of 63, Ludlow Street, Penarth, Glam. Plot I. Row B. Grave 38.

TYLER, Private, LEONARD BASIL, 3036. 1st/6th Bn. Gloucestershire Regiment. Died of wounds, received at Hebuterne, 24th December 1915. Age 20. Son of Robert and Alice E. E. Tyler, of 9, Surrey Road, Bishopston, Bristol. Enlisted Sept. 7th, 1914. Plot I. Row C. Grave 23.

VAIRE, Soldier, JEAN, French Army. 16th June 1915. FRENCH PLOT ROW A GR 19.

VENDE, Soldier, HENRI, French Army. 14th June 1915. FRENCH PLOT ROW A GR 33.

VIAUD, Soldier, JEAN MARIE, French Army. 5th July 1915. FRENCH PLOT ROW B GR 14.

WATKINSON, Private, A, 3/2399. 1st Bn. Essex Regiment. Died of wounds 6th July 1916. Age 35. Son of Robert and Mary Emily Watkinson, of Shalford, nr. Braintree, Essex. Served in the South African Campaign. Plot I. Row D. Grave 4.

WHEELER, Private, J J, 2811. 1st/4th Bn Oxford. and Bucks Light Infantry. Died of wounds at Louvincourt 24th September 1915. Age 22. Son of John Day and Rachel Wheeler, of 8, Paradise Road, Banbury, Oxon. Plot I. Row C. Grave 8.

WHITE, Private, J, 12140. 1st Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Died of wounds 9th June 1916. Age 19. Son of James and Jessie White, of 33, Industry Street, Kirkintilloch. Plot I. Row C. Grave 46.

WHITE, Private, W E, 7448. 2nd Bn. Hampshire Regiment. 2nd July 1916. Plot I. Row B. Grave 34.

WHITTLE, Sapper, HENRY, 2039504. 218 Army Troops Coy., Royal Engineers. 26th May 1940. Age 21. Son of Oliver Richard William and Ellen Whittle, of Peckham, London. I. F. 1.



## **PRIVATE GEORGE GOODWIN OF THE ESSEX REGIMENT**

Service number 200951, Killed in Action on 26 March 1917 aged 25

He had volunteered to serve in the 4<sup>th</sup> (Territorial) Battalion of the Essex Regiment before the First World War started, having travelled to Ilford to do so.

They were at their Annual Training Camp when the War started and were immediately ordered to Felixstowe to take up coastal defence positions and were immediately at work digging trenches. They continued here and had further training until they were moved to St Albans. Here the Battalion was brought up to full strength by a transfer in of men from the London Rifle Brigade. They were then placed in the 161<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 54<sup>th</sup> Division.

They left here on the 21 July 1915 and embarked for Gallipoli via Malta. They arrived on the Gallipoli Peninsula on the 12 August as much needed replacements for the many thousands of British soldiers already killed since they had landed on the 25 April. They suffered their first casualties here on the 16 August. Here they remained until they left the peninsula for Egypt on the 3 December and were on defensive duties until March 1917 on the East and West banks of the Suez Canal. Here they were mainly protecting and defending works being carried out on water pipe laying, building of roads and rail laying with the odd 'Desert Column' being sent out to track down Senussi tribesmen on the West bank and Turkish outposts on the East bank.

The 161<sup>st</sup> Brigade including the men from the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion relieved the attacking Commonwealth Cavalry units used in the Battle at Wadi Majib on Christmas Day 1915. They were then involved in actions at Halazin on 23 January 1916 and almost immediately attacked the Turks again at Magdhaba and Rafah until the 9 January 1917. Their success cleared the way into Palestine to make way for the advance into Gaza. Magdhaba was a heavily fortified Turkish camp, our troops attacked at 6.30am and the last Turkish position fell at 4pm. They then started their attack on what became known as Hill 255, this being 1 mile south of Rafah. This was a heavily fortified area and over 170 Turkish prisoners were taken. Despite our artillery running short of shells, by night fall, the infantry of the Brigade had taken all their positions.

The last two Turkish garrisons at El Hassan and Nekh fell by mid February, leaving the way into Palestine open with Gaza as the next major objective, this saw the start of our advance into the Ottoman Empire. Private George Goodwin was killed during this further advance.

His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Walls to the Missing at the Jerusalem Memorial in Israel on Panels 33 to 39.

This magnificent Memorial stands in the Jerusalem War Cemetery and commemorates over 3000 soldiers of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force from the UK, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa who fell in Egypt or Palestine during the 1914-1918 war and have no known grave. The memorial takes the form of a chapel in the centre of the long wall that bounds the Cemetery. It occupies the highest point of the cemetery and rises 11 metres from a raised stone platform and either side of it are curved walls 4.5 metres high with stone



panels engraved with the names of the dead. At the two ends of the whole memorial are stone pylons, one bearing the arms of Australia and the other those of New Zealand. The chapel, built of limestone, was erected by the subscriptions of the officers and men of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and its interior was decorated with mosaic at the cost of the Government of New Zealand

He was the son of Martin and Mary Ann Goodwin of Jaspers Green, Shalford



**THE JERUSALEM MEMORIAL  
(at the rear of the cemetery)**

**The memorial was unveiled by Lord Allenby on 7 May 1927**

#### **PRIVATE ALBERT ADAMS OF THE ESSEX REGIMENT**

Service number 19352, Killed in Action on Monday 30 April 1917

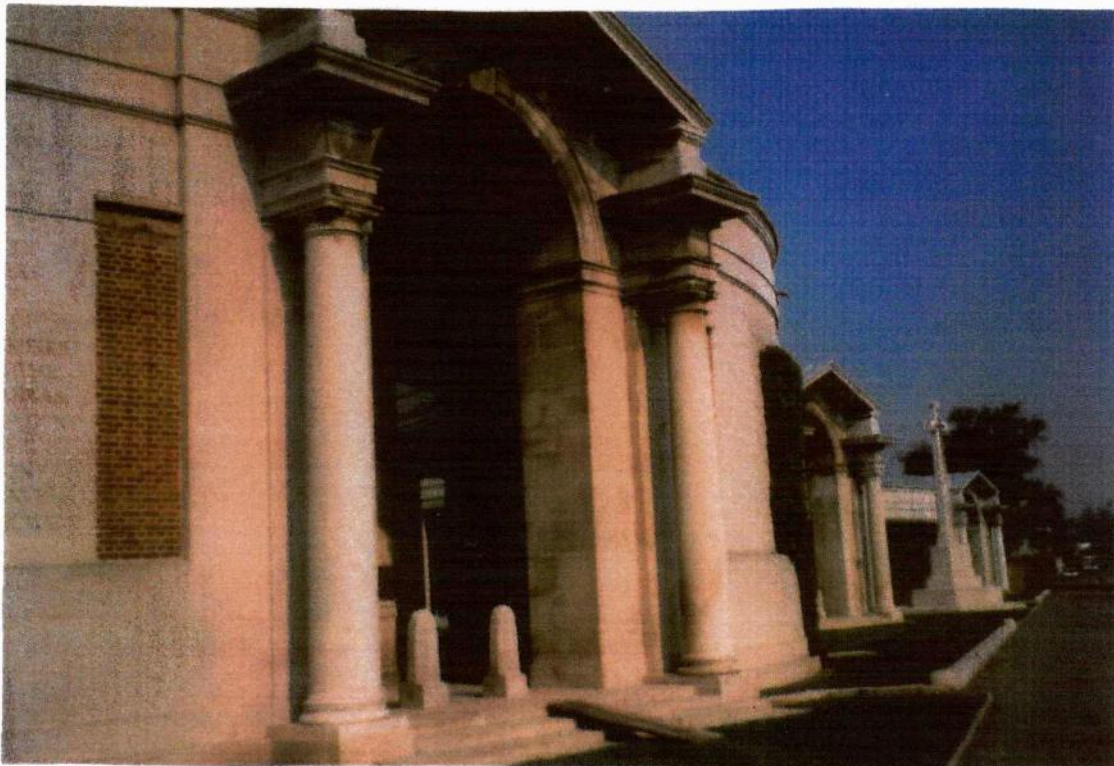
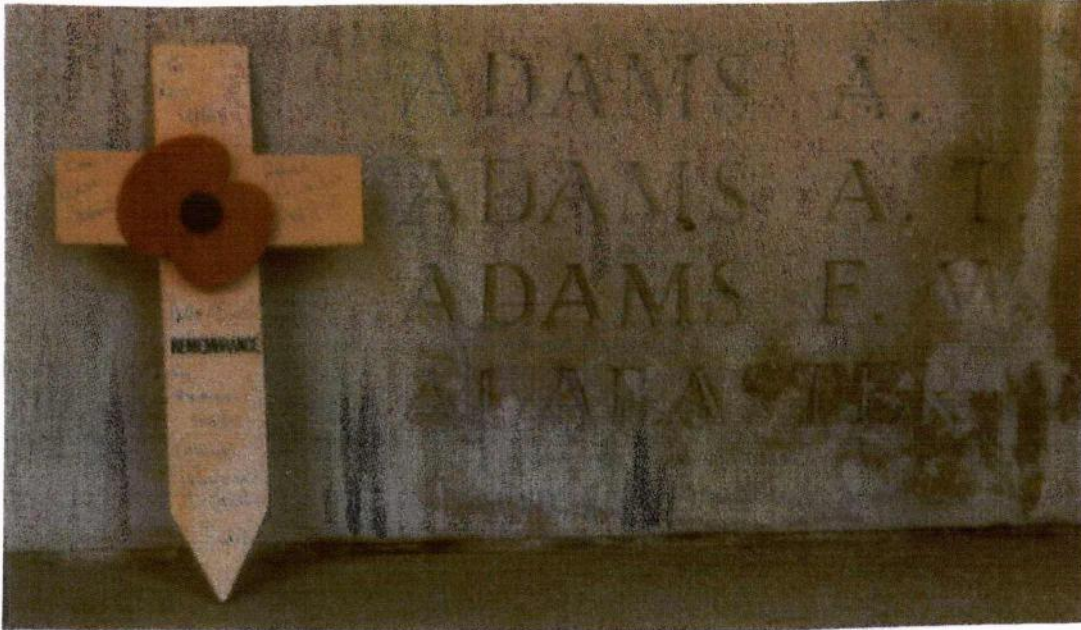
He actually signed to serve in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment in Shalford when a travelling recruiting team travelled through the village. He then travelled to Colchester to officially enlist.

He was killed during the Battle of Arras that started on Easter Sunday the 9 April 1917 when General Haig planned a breakthrough on the Aisne against the German Hindenburg Line. The First Army was given the job of capturing Vimy Ridge, while General Allenby's Third Army including the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment delivered the main thrust on both sides of the River Scarpe, going for Feuchy and Fampoux to the north of the river, and Tilloy and Monchy-le-Preux to the south. In all the Third Army's attack stretched along a front of 9 miles.

In the same area of the battle was Major Guy Gilbey Gold of Abbots Hall, Shalford who took part in the last cavalry charge by the British Army on the Western Front. He was a Squadron Commander, 'B' Squadron of the Essex Yeomanry that comprised the Braintree and Finchingfield, Tiptree and Maldon, Halstead and Chelmsford Troops plus the Ossett Troop when they made their courageous charge up the hill to capture this French town on the ridge. Another man from Shalford was also involved in the battle, my own father, Trooper Walter Sydney Harvey of the Household Battalion. His battalion attacked across the River Scarpe the village of Rouex and its chemical works (a strongly fortified strong point), alongside them being the Seaforth Highlanders and the Lincolnshire Regiment.



Albert Adams body was never found and he is commemorated on the Walls to the Missing at the Arras Memorial in France. His name is inscribed on Bay 7 as shown in the photograph below. This Memorial is in the Fauborg-d'Amiens Cemetery in the western part of the town of Arras. The Memorial commemorates almost 35000 casualties of the British, New Zealand and South African Forces who died between Spring 1916 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, and who have no known grave. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and consists of a cloister, 25 feet high and 380 feet long, built up on Doric columns.



**The exterior of the Fauborg-d'Amiens Cemetery**



## **PRIVATE FRANK SMEE OF THE NORFOLK REGIMENT**

Regimental Number 25271, Died of Wounds 30 April 1917

He joined the 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment that was formed in Norwich in September 1914 and they were originally placed in the 71<sup>st</sup> Brigade that was in the 24<sup>th</sup> Division. They landed in Boulougne on the 30 August 1915 and on the 15 October 1915 were transferred to the 6<sup>th</sup> Division.

With this Division they took part in 1916 in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Norval and the Battle of Transloy which were all part of the Battle of the Somme that started on the 1 July of that year.

Frank Smeë survived all these battles and it was on 30 April 1917 that he lost his life during the Battle of Arras. He does have a grave and is buried in the Bethune Town Cemetery in France in Plot 6, Row E, Grave 28

## **GUNNER SIDNEY JEFFREY OF THE ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY**

Regimental Number 102113, Died of Wounds on Monday, 25 March 1918, aged 33

He served in the 405<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. It has not been possible to find out anything about his service, all that is known is that he lost his life in France, does have a grave and is buried in the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery in Arras. His grave is in Plot 6, Row C, Grave number 26.

The French handed over Arras to our Commonwealth forces in the Spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917 (The Battle of Arras). The Commonwealth cemetery was begun in MARCH 1916, BEHIND THE French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by our field ambulances and fighting units until the end of the war. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the area. It contains 2651 burials of the First World War and in addition, there are 30 war graves of other nationalities, most of them German. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the war to other burial grounds and the land they occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial, on the walls of which is the name of Albert Adams of Shalford. Within the walls is also the Arras Flying Services Memorial to the members of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force who gave their lives in the First World War.

The cemetery and memorial are situated on the Boulevard du General de Gaulle.

He was the son of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey of Shalford and husband of Minnie Jeffrey of 79 Cleveland Road, Surbiton, Surrey

\*\*\*\*\*



# **"THE POMPADOURS"**



## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ESSEX REGIMENT (nicknamed - 'THE POMPADOURS')**

**and the story**

### **OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE MILITARY CHAPEL AT WARLEY**

**IN ESSEX**

#### **THE REGIMENTS CAP BADGE**

Consists of the Castle and Key of the Rock of Gibraltar with the Sphinx surrounded with laurel.

#### **THE HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT**

The Regiment adopted as its facing colour (Collar, lapels and cuffs) a shade known today as 'Rose Pompadour', the favourite colour of the Marquise de Pompadour, mistress of King Louis XIV of France. Their smart appearance soon earned them the nickname of 'The Pompadours'.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot was one of 7 infantry regiments raised in 1741  
The 56<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot was one of 10 infantry regiments raised in 1755.



Both regiments saw action soon after their formation, the 44<sup>th</sup> were present at the Battle of Preston Pans 1745 and again saw service in Flanders in 1747. In 1755 it was sent to North America where it suffered severe losses in the next 10 years of campaigning, before it returned home sadly depleted in strength in 1765. The 56<sup>th</sup> saw service at the capture of Havana in Cuba in 1762. For the gallant part it played in the capture of Fort Moro, the main defensive position of Havana, the 56<sup>th</sup> was awarded the battle honour "Moro" in addition to the honour "Havana" given to all the regiments in the expedition. These are the oldest Battle Honours on the Colours of the Essex Regiment. The 56<sup>th</sup> on return from Havana then enjoyed a short spell of garrison duty in Ireland before being sent to Gibraltar in 1770, where it served for 12 years. This long tour included service through the Great Siege of Gibraltar (1799-83) by the combined forces of France and Spain, who were allied with the American Colonists against Britain. The Rock was only held due to the great courage of its garrison.

The 56<sup>th</sup> was awarded the battle honour "Gibraltar 1779-83" with the right to bear on its Colour a 'Castle and Key'. The 'Castle and Key' became the central part of the badge of the Essex Regiment and continues today as part of the badge of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

In 1782 a system of linking regiments territorially with geographic areas took place. The 44<sup>th</sup> became the 44<sup>th</sup> or East Essex Regiment and the 56<sup>th</sup> the West Essex Regiment. This was the first territorial connection of the two regiments with the County of Essex.

The outbreak of war with revolutionary France in 1793, found both the 44<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> in Ireland. Both were sent to the West Indies, being employed in operations against the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. The 56<sup>th</sup> remained here until 1799. The 44<sup>th</sup> returned home in 1794 to be sent, ill prepared and under strength to fight under the Duke of York in Flanders. This ill conceived campaign ended for the 44<sup>th</sup> in the spring of 1795 when it returned with the other remnants of our Army to England, only to be sent once more to the West Indies, returning home again in 1797. The 44<sup>th</sup> then garrisoned Gibraltar from October 1800 at a time when Napoleon conquered Egypt, only to have his fleet destroyed by Nelson at the Battle of the Nile. In 1801 the 44<sup>th</sup> was made part of the expedition to Egypt and took part in the Battle of the Pyramids and the Siege of Alexandria. It was awarded its first battle honour "The Sphinx superscribed Egypt" and the Sphinx formed part of the Regiments Cap Badge.

During the Napoleonic Wars, the 44<sup>th</sup> served in Sicily, Malta, Spain and North America. In the latter campaign the battle honour "Blandenberg" was awarded for the part it took in the advance to end occupation of Washington, the American Capital in 1814. The 2/44<sup>th</sup> that had been raised when our Army was expanded during the Napoleonic Wars, in its short life crowned itself with glory, gaining great distinction under Lord Wellington in the Peninsula War and at Quatre Bras and Waterloo. It was here that the regiment were awarded the battle honours of "Budajez", "Salamanca", "Peninsula" and Waterloo". It was a party of the 2/44<sup>th</sup> under a Lieutenant W Pearce that they captured the Eagle Standard of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of French Infantry during the Battle of Salamanca battle in all our wars with France. Used to be in the Chapel at Warley, but for security reasons it is



now on display at the Essex Regiment Museum in Chelmsford. An Eagle Badge is still worn today as an arm badge by the Royal Anglian Regiment

The 56<sup>th</sup> helped in the destruction of French power in the East, taking part in the seizure of Rodriguez, the raid on St. Pauls, Bourbon and the capture of Mauritius, as well as seeing active service in India.

After the final defeat of Napoleonic France in 1814 at the Battle of Waterloo, came an era of peace which lasted until the Crimean war in 1854.

In 1841 the 44<sup>th</sup> was sent to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, as it still is. This was a country then occupied by the British in what became known as the First Afghan War. Meanwhile the 56<sup>th</sup> spent some years in Jamaica, Canada, Gibraltar again and Bermuda.

1854 saw the start of the Crimean War. Both regiments served with great distinction in this campaign. The 44<sup>th</sup> being one of the first units to be in action. It was awarded the battle honours "Alma" and Inkerman", while both 44<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> were awarded the honour "Sevastapol". Stirred by the gallantry of her troops in this war, Queen Victoria instituted the award of the Victoria Cross, our highest award for valour. One of the very first to be awarded, being won by Sergeant W McWheeney of the 44<sup>th</sup>.

The end of the Crimean War was quickly followed by the Indian Mutiny(1857) with both the 44<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> being dispatched as reinforcing units. They arrived however, too late to take part in this arduous campaign, but 4 years later the 44<sup>th</sup> was again to see active service. This was at the storming of Taku Fort in North China. Lieutenant R M Rogers and Private J McDougal were both awarded the Victoria Cross for valour in this action.

THE ESSEX REGIMENT as it became, was formed in 1881. In this year, important changes known as the Cardwell Reforms were made. As a result the various infantry regiments of a county were grouped territorially. In Essex the 44<sup>th</sup> and the 56<sup>th</sup> were brought together and became the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the Essex Regiment. The two units of the ancient Militia, the East Essex Militia and the East Essex(Rifles) Militia were re-designated the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Militia) Battalions of the Essex Regiment and the Depot companies of these four battalions were brought together for the first time at Warley Barracks and formed the Regimental Depot. Finally, the various Corps of Essex Rifle Volunteers became the four Volunteer Battalions of the Regiment. In this manner was laid the foundations for the Territorial Army that has served the country so well right up to 2013 when sadly this name has now disappeared and is known as the Army Reserve.

Both the Regular Battalions. the 3<sup>rd</sup>(Militia) Battalion and elements of the Volunteer Battalions served in the South African War 1899-1902. The regiment gaining the battle honours "South Africa 1899-1902", whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was awarded in addition the honour "Relief of Kimberley" and "Paardeberg". In this war the 4<sup>th</sup> Victoria Cross for the Regiment was awarded to Lieutenant F H Parsons.

## **THE FIRST WORLD WAR or GREAT WAR 1914-1918**

A massive increase in the size of our Army was essential to meet the German menace and this was arrived at by the rapid expansion of the Territorial Force and the raising of the Service Battalions.



In total, thirty one battalions of the Essex Regiment were **formed**, 11 serving overseas with great distinction. In all, no fewer than 70 Battle Honours were won, 10 being selected to appear on what was then the King's Colour (now of course, the Q

ueen's Colour)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion served on the Gallipoli Peninsula and in France and Belgium. As part of the immortal 29<sup>th</sup> Division it took part in the initial landing on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and in all the countless hard fought battles that followed. Its record on the Western Front in France and Belgium was equally glorious. Of the 10 honours emblazoned on the King's Colour, the 1<sup>st</sup> shares with other battalions of the Regiment "Gallipoli", "Somme", "Arras", "Ypres 1917" and "Cambrai".

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was the first in action, moving to France with the 4<sup>th</sup> Division of the original British Expeditionary Force, and took part in the Retreat from Mons and the Battle of the Marne. Its record throughout the war was unsurpassed. Of the honours on the King's Colour "Le Cateau", "The Marne" and "Ypres 1915" were gained by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

The Territorial Battalions of the Regiment served with great distinction on Gallipoli and in Egypt and Palestine, taking part in many hard fought battles with the Turks and gaining 10 battle honours for the Regiment, including "Gaza", which was emblazoned on the King's Colour.

The 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Service Battalions of the Regiment became part of what was known as Kitchener's Army and all served in France and Belgium. They can claim a worthy share of the 10 honours on the King's Colour awarded for the Regiments service in the Great War, whilst the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Service Battalions added the honours "Loos" and "Selle" to the Colours. Lieutenant F B Wearne of the 11<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conspicuous valour. The 15<sup>th</sup> Essex also served on the Western Front during the concluding months of the war.

Some 9000 officers and men of the Essex Regiment died in the 1914-1918 War, many having no known grave.

### **THE STORY OF THE REGIMENT 1918 to 1939**

During the period 1919 to 1929, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion soldiered largely at home, but did see active service in Southern Ireland (1919-21) and in Palestine (1937-38). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion served in Malta, Turkey, India, Egypt and the Sudan, seeing active service in Turkey (1920) and on the North West Frontier of India (1930-31)

In 1913 the County presented four silver drums to each of the 2 Regular Battalions (The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>) These were added to by public subscription, so that by 1937 the Regiment possessed a still unsurpassed display of silver drums and also bugles. Many of these are today on display at the Regimental Museum in Chelmsford.

### **THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 to 1945**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was again, first in action, moving to France in September 1939. They took part in the retreat to and withdrawal from Dunkirk in May 1940. They again landed on D Day in May 1944 and fought throughout without respite, with great renown to the final surrender of Germany in May 1945.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion served in the Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Tobruk and in Assam and Burma.

The Territorial Army Battalions all gave distinguished service, one or more of them being involved in actions in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Greece. The 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion were heavily involved in the Battle of El Alamein and they were also involved in the mighty Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy.

Lieutenant Colonel Newman of Panfield Hall, Panfield who was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, was awarded the Victoria Cross for his part in the famous raid by our Commandos on St Nazaire.

## **POST THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

Soon after the end of the war, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the Regiment were amalgamated to form the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (44<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup>) and from 1953 to 1954 served in the Korean war before being stationed in Hong Kong 1954-56 and Germany from 1956 to 1958. In Korea the large numbers of National Servicemen from Dagenham brought in to make the Battalion up to full strength, brought with them a new nickname for the Regiment, when they became known as 'The Dagenham Light Infantry'.

Whilst at Dormund in Germany, the 2 June 1958 saw the end of this famous County Regiment when the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion were amalgamated with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment to form the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the East Anglian Regiment. This in turn on 5 October 1992 became the Royal Anglian Regiment, this being the first of what is now known as our Large Regiments

## **TO FINISH THE HISTORY**

**In all its proud and long history, the Essex Regiment never failed in peace or war. It had only one standard in barracks or in battle – the highest possible.**

## **THE MILITARY CHAPEL IN WARLEY**

### **`SERVICE` `SACRIFICE` `EXAMPLE`**

All three formed the traditions and standards of the Essex Regiment and which are carried on today in the Royal Anglian Regiment who are again serving in Afghanistan.

Warley Common was used as a Military Camp for the Regular Army in 1742 and had been used even earlier as a training ground for the Militia. It was not until 1804 that it was decided to make Warley Common a permanent military station and 116 acres of land were purchased at a cost of £5400 and barracks were constructed.

This new accommodation was first used by half a battalion of the Rifle Brigade and then in 1832 it was occupied by the Royal Scots Greys. At this time the troops of the East India Company shared a barracks with the Regular Army at Chatham (home of the Royal Engineers). In 1842 the East India Company was informed by the War Office that the accommodation at Chatham was insufficient for the regular Army and that the troops of the East India Company should move. They would be equally well provided for at Warley, and indeed, it was only twelve miles from Chatham..



They moved here in January 1843 and the East India Company made plans to make alterations to Warley, including the then existing riding school. However, a recommendation of the Commandant, dated 13 March 1843 stated 'that the riding house should be allowed to stand as it would prove useful as a place of worship' and it was so used for the next fourteen years, and the sum of £63 per annum was paid to the Rector of Warley for all clerical and ecclesiastical duties. This use of a riding school was not unusual in the British Army in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Even the riding school at Buckingham Palace was used for Divine Service by the Brigade of Guards, in London, before their own Guards Chapel was built in 1838. Sadly this was destroyed in WWII and was rebuilt after the end of this war.

In March 1855 when the barracks were further extended, the plans included the erection of a Church. Matthew Digby Wyatt (later Knighted) submitted plans and estimates for the Church to accommodate about 600 people. He made four designs for the building, costing £5000, £4999, £3900 and £3500 to be constructed of brick. The cheapest was chosen.

The outbreak of the Mutiny in India delayed the start and in March 1857, the Commissioner for Affairs in India stepped in and decided that the price should be about £2000 for a 'plain military chapel'. Mr Digby Wyatt by economising on materials, which resulted in slenderer walls, lower roof and dispensing with a bell tower, brought the price down to £2147 plus £300 for grounds and paths. Work started in August 1857 and by the end of the year the Church was completed.

After the disaster of the Indian Mutiny in 1857, the entire administration of India passed into the hands of the Crown. The East India Company Regiments became part of the British Army and in 1861 control of Warley Barracks passed to the War Office and a battery of the Royal Artillery was stationed there. Three years later Warley became the Depot of the Brigade of Guards.

Lord Cardwell, as Secretary of State for War, under Gladstone, initiated far reaching reforms in the British Army in 1870, when the fragmented infantry battalions of the Army were grouped into double battalion regiments with their associated Militia and Volunteer battalions. In 1873 the depot companies of the 44<sup>th</sup> (East Essex Regiment) raised in 1741 and the 56<sup>th</sup> (West Essex Regiment) 'The Pompadours' raised in 1755 were grouped unto one Depot along with the Depot companies of the Essex Rifles and the West Essex Militia.

With the Depot of the Brigade of Guards being transferred to Caterham in Surrey, the Depot companies of Essex all moved to Warley. Thus was established a regimental centre for regular and militia regiments which were raised in the County of Essex.

The next major reorganisation of 1881 when the numbers were abolished, and all English regiments linked to and styled under the names of English Counties. The 44<sup>th</sup> and the 56<sup>th</sup> became the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions, Essex Regiment, while the Essex Militia Rifles and the West Essex Militia became the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Regiment.

Although the Garrison Chapel at Warley had Regimental connections as far as back as 1873, it was not until February 1925 that official sanction was given to the proposal that the Chapel should be recognised as the Essex Regiment Chapel. Great opposition was expected, as with the exception of the Brigade of Guards, no unit of the Army possessed its own Chapel. Authority, however proved unexpectedly sympathetic, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1925, the Garrison Chapel at Warley was dedicated as The Essex Regiment Chapel by the Chaplain-General, Bishop Taylor Smith.

Major improvements were made to the Chapel year by year up until 1939. On the 3 September that year, on the outbreak of the Second World War, the Essex Regiment Depot at Warley ceased to



exist.

The Chapel, in the heart of the Regiment at Warley, was in grave danger of destruction or damage by enemy action. In the event just two of the plain glass windows were shattered. It was not until November 1944 that the barracks at Warley suffered any damage, this being caused by a Flying Bomb or 'doodle bug' as they became known, but the Chapel escaped damage. As it did when a V2 Rocket fell in the barracks on 23 December 1944. The barracks were badly damaged, but again the Chapel escaped. In February 1945 another V2 fell on the barracks, but once more the Chapel was undamaged. Finally in March 1945 a further rocket landed between the Chapel and the nearby 'Headley Arms'. This time there was slight damage to the Chapel with two windows being damaged.

Post the Second World War regular services recommenced in the Chapel and in 1946 it was decided to add a bell tower and an appeal to raise the funds necessary was issued to all members of the Regiment, past and present. Response was immediate and donations came from soldiers all over the world, not only from members of the Regiment, but also from the Royal Fusiliers and members of the Royal Netherlands Army, who had been stationed at Warley in 1945. On the 24 June 1946, during a visit to the Dutch troops at Warley, H R H Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands paid a visit to the Chapel. Many other famous people have visited the Chapel, including the Queen Mother and Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

The Chapel is packed with memorials both to Battalions, but also individuals including many dedicated pews and of course many of the regiments Colours have been laid up here including the original Colours of the 44<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Foot. These being the founder Regiments of what became The Essex Regiment. Amongst the numerous stained glass windows is one that is the Memorial Window of the war time Essex Home Guard.

The huge losses sustained by the Regiment in the First World War are reflected in the Chapel, by the numerous memorials to the fallen. The initial memorial was to the fallen of the two Regular Battalions at the outbreak of the First World War, the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions. It consists of a fine alabaster mural tablet emblazoned with the crest of the two Battalions, a shelf supporting a cedar box containing the Roll of Honour Books, and a central plaque of white Sicilian marble inscribed-

***"To the Glory of God and in memory of 185 Officers and 3,244 Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions, The Essex Regiment, who fell in the Great War 1914-1918"***

I can think of no better way to finish these few notes on this beautiful Regimental Chapel that is now the Chapel of the Royal Anglian Regiment in which many Essex men are serving, and even today some are in action, this time in Afghanistan yet again.