**Batford men in World War I**

*There are three main sources for names of those who lived in the Batford area and joined up or were conscripted.*

*1) Harpenden War Memorial on Church Green, with notes by Mary Skinner, in an article on the Harpenden-History website:*

*Harpenden-History.org.uk/page/harpenden\_war\_memorial\_1914-18*

*These entries are copied from the website in small print.*

*2) National Roll of Honour, 1914-18, with brief accounts of the military careers of a selection of servicemen, including those who survived, but probably less than ten percent of those who actually served. These entries have details of their activity in the war.*

*3) A Roll of Honour published in 1915, of a number of local men who enlisted. No details are given apart from their names and addresses and where they enlisted.*

*There is little overlap between these three lists.*

*Addresses checked in Kelly's Directory, 1913-14 give some information, but there were no street numbers then. Some surnames are not listed so may refer to lodgers.*

ALMOND, J.W. c 110 Lower Luton Rd Pte, Kings (Liverpool) Regt

*1915 Vimy Ridge, Somme, Arras, Cambrai*

ALMOND, S c 110 Lower Luton Rd Rifleman, Kings Royal Rifle Corps

*1918 Guard of POWs*

ANDREWS, REGINALD c 75 Cold Harbour Lane Herts Regt

ARCHER, ROBERT c 190 Station Road

ARCHER Lower Luton Rd Pte, RAF

*1918 no overseas service*

BALLANTINE, A Lower Luton Rd Pte, Royal Marine Engineers

*1918 Not overseas, unfit*

BANDY, A.E. c 65 Cold Harbour Lane 4th Beds Killed 10.3.15

BANDY Albert Edward,  Lance Corporal  2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was born in Harpenden, the son of Albert Edward, a builder’s labourer, and Lizzie Maria Bandy. He was employed as an errand boy at a nursery. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 10 March 1915

BANGS, G Lodge Cottages, c 20 Lower Luton Rd Pte, 4th Beds Rgt Wounded

*1914 Egypt, Palestine, then Ypres, Somme, Cambrai where wounded*

BANGS, H Lodge Cottages, c 20 Lower Luton Rd Able Seaman RN

*1914 HMS Braemar Castle. North Sea, Med., Troop transport to Dardanelles and Egypt*

BARNES, B Belmont Cotts, Lower Luton Rd Pte, 2nd Devonshire Regt

*1914 Western Front, Messines, then Salonika*

BARSLEY, R Lower Luton Rd Pte, 13th Royal Fusiliers

*1915 Ypres, Arras, Bullecourt, Cambrai, Somme*

BELL, E.A. 2 Marquis Lane Pte, Dule of Cambridge's Own Lancers

*1918 Joined Army of Occupation, Cologne*

BELL, P.G. 2 Marquis Lane Gunner, Royal Field Artillery

*1916 Cambrai, Albert, Bapaume, Army of Occupation*

BIGG, CHARLES Batford Road Herts Regt Killed 14.7.16

BIGG Charles William,  Private Hertfordshire Regiment  
He was born in Harpenden in 1894, the eldest son of Mr Bigg of Batford Road, who worked for Vauxhall, Luton. Before enlisting in Hertford he worked in the Almagam Rubber Works on the Lower Luton Road. He was wounded in France when a bomb he was about to throw exploded in his hand. He was carried to the dressing station, where he died when a shell exploded nearby, on 14 July 1916. He was 24 years old.

BOOTH, C.I. Station Rd 5th Herts

BURGESS, PERCY Great Northern 3rd Beds Killed 7.12.15

BURGESS Percy  Corporal 10th Battalion Hampshire Regiment, formerly of the Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was born in Harpenden and lived in one of the cottages at the Batford end of Station Road. Before enlisting he worked in the laundry in Harpenden Rise, supporting his widowed mother and two young brothers. He was killed in action in the Balkans on 7 December 1915, thirteen days before his twentieth birthday.

CAIN, Frederick Lower Luton Rd Gunner, Royal Field Artillery Died of wounds

*1915 Many actions, Died of wounds.*

CLARKE, C. 4 Stanley Cotts, Batford Rd Pte, Machine Gun Corps

*1916 Egypt, El Arish, Gaza, Medjal, Haifa, Beyrout. In 1918 sent to Cairo.*

CLEMENTS, H.G. 1 Nene Cotts, c 160 Station Rd Co Sgt Major, 1st Herts Regt

*Pre 1914 Western Front 1915. Special duties guarding POWs in large camp at Rouen*

CRUMPLIN, C.H. Batford Mills Pte, Beds Regt. Killed

*1916 Ypres, killed in action at Messines Ridge, June 1917.*

CRUMPLIN, F. Batford Mills Rifleman, Kings Royal Rifles Twice wounded

*Pre 1914 Retreat from Mons, Ypres, Somme, Arras, Cambrai. Twice wounded, Transferred to Italy.*

CURL, A.T. c 40 Lower Luton Rd Pte, Royal Veterinary Corps

*1916 Salonika, France.*

DRURY, ERNEST c 5 Batford Rd 6th Beds

DRURY Ernest, Lance Corporal 6th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was born in 1893, the younger son of Robert Drury of Batford Road, Harpenden, a signalman on the Great Northern Railway. He worked for the Almagam Rubber Company in Lower Luton Road. He was wounded in France on 9 July 1916, and brought to hospital in Britain; his wounds healed but he died from tuberculosis in Ware Hospital on 13 May 1917. He was buried in St Nicholas churchyard, Harpenden, after a service in the Methodist Church, where he had been a member of the choir. He is commemorated on the memorial in Harpenden Methodist Church.

FRANKLIN, JOHN c 34 Batford Rd

FRANKLIN, WILFRED N c 20 Willoughby Rd 1st South Wales Borderers Killed 20.9.14

FRANKLIN Wilfred Noel Private 1st Battalion South Wales Borderers

He was born in Hitchin on 15 November 1886, the son of William Franklin, Architect & Surveyor, and Alice his wife of Holly Cottage, Willoughby Road, Harpenden. He enlisted in Luton. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 26 September 1914. He was the first Harpenden casualty.

FRENCH, F.A. Batford Cotts, c 20 Lower Luton Rd Pte, R.M. Light Infantry

*1917 To Ireland, Dublin Barracks, Harbour Guard.*

FRENCH, J. Batford Cotts, c 20 Lower Luton Rd Pte, Beds Regt Unfit

*1914 Discharged as medically unfit, in 1915.*

GILBERT, A.T. Batford Mill Cotts Pte, R.M. Light Infantry Wounded

*1916 Passchendaele, Cambrai. Was wounded.*

GRAY, W.J. Marquis Lane

GRAY Walter James, Private Royal Fusiliers  
He was born on 14 October 1897, the son of Walter James & Kate Gray, who lived in Marquis Lane.

GUNNELL, E 55 Coldharbour Lane

GUNNELL Edward, Lance Corporal  Royal Army Service Corps, Motor Transport Division  
He was born in Harpenden in 1882, the son of Horace Gunnell of Coldharbour Lane. He was employed as a chauffeur to Lady St Oswald at Nostell Priory, Yorkshire. He enlisted in Leeds in February 1915. He was killed at a railhead on the Western Front while loading ammunition on 10 July 1917. He left a young widow who lived in Stafford.

HALE, F. Lower Luton Rd Pte, Beds Regt. Twice wounded

*1914 Ypres, Somme, Arras, twice wounded.*

HALE, P Batford

HILL, ARTHUR New Farm, (now Stephens Court, Station Rd)

HILL Arthur James, Sergeant 5th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was the eldest son of the late George Hill & Mrs C. Hill of New Farm, near the Great Northern Railway Station, Harpenden. He lived in Harpenden and enlisted in St Albans in 1915. He was employed on the farm of Mr Dolphin Smith. He was killed in action in Palestine on 2 November 1915. Corporal Percy Burgess of the same unit, who was killed in action five weeks later, was a close friend of his. Arthur Hill’s name is recorded on the Roll of Honour in Harpenden Methodist Church.

HILL, GEORGE Great Northern, Station Rd 3rd Beds

HILL George William, Private   Hampshire Regiment  
He was the younger brother of Arthur. He lived in Harpenden and enlisted in Bedford in November 1914. He died of pneumonia while on active service in Salonika on 8 October 1918. His name is recorded on the Roll of Honour in Harpenden Methodist Church.

HILLIARD, C Cold Harbour Lane Royal Field Artilery

HOARE, A Batford Royal Navy

HUCKLESBY, WALTER c 160 Station Road

HUCKLESBY Walter James, Private 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment  
He was born in Luton in 1880, the eldest son of Walter Hucklesby who lived in Station Road, Harpenden, near the Great Northern Railway Station. He was a bricklayer working at Vauxhall in Luton. He was a member of Batford Methodist Church. He enlisted in Luton. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 10 July 1917.

IVES, E.W. Mill Cottages, c 60 Lower Luton Rd Pte, Royal Army Service Corps

*1914 Hill 60, 2nd Battle of Ypres. Discharged unfit 1915.*

JACKSON, A.C.D. Station Rd 8th East Lancs

LAWRENCE, A. c 13 Salisbury Road Sapper, Royal Engineers Gassed

*1915 Ypres, Arras, Somme, Cambrai. Was gassed.*

LAWRENCE, G. 9 Stanley Cotts, Batford Rd Pte, Herts Regt. Wounded 3 times

*1914 Hill 60, Ypres, Givenchy, Loos, Albert, Vimy Ridge, Arras.*

LAWRENCE, H.W. c 30 Salisbury Rd Pte, 3rd Beds Regt. Wounded

*1914 2nd Ypres, Arras. Wounded and returned home 1916.*

LAWRENCE, J. 9 Stanley Cotts, Batford Rd Pte, Rotal Army Service Corps Died

*1916 Salonika, Vardar and Doiran Fronts. Contracted malaria and died.*

LAWRENCE, W. 1 Common Lane Driver, Royal Field Artillery

*1914 Salonika, Vardar Front. Sent to Russia in 1918.*

LORD, FREDERICK Great Northern (Station Rd) 3rd Beds

MACDONALD, HAROLD G.F. Station Rd London Scottosh

MACDONALD, IVOR J.C. Station Rd Territorial Force Reserve

MALES, F. Batford Cotts, Lower Luton Rd Cpl, Beds Regt. Wounded

*1914 Mons, La Bassee, Ypres, Hill 60. Wounded, then on return Vimy Ridge, Cambrai, and wounded again.*

MINALL, G. New Farm, Station Rd Pte, 1st Herts Regt. Killed

*1914 Ypres, Somme, wounded. After return to his unit was killed in action at St Julien, April 1917.*

MOLES, Frederick C Providence Row, Marquis Lane

MINALL, W. New Farm, Station Rd Pte, 1st Herts Regt. Twice wounded

*1914 Hill 60, Ypres, Albert. Then to Egypt: Canal Zone, Romani, Gaza, Haifa, Aleppo. Advanced through Palestine with General Allenby. Twice wounded.*

MUNDAY, E. Belmont Cotts, c 50 Lower Luton Rd Pte, Glos Regt. Wounded

*1914 Somme, Ypres, Messines, Cambrai, St Julien. Wounded, discharged after treatment.*

MUNDAY, Mrs M. Belmont Cotts, c 50 Lower Luton Rd Special War Worker

*1915 Chaul End Munitions Factory, filled fuses. 1917-9 Waltham Cross Munitions works manufacture of cordite.*

MUNT, A. 10 Batford Rd Pte, Machine Gun Corps

*1917 Active during German advance and retreat in 1918.*

NASH, J.A. 2 Common Lane Gunner, Royal Field Artillery

*1917 Retreat and Advance in 1918. Army of Occupation in Germany.*

ODELL, WILLIAM c 30 Batford Rd 8th Beds

PAYNE, A.W. c 192 Station Road Pte, Queens (Royal W Surrey) Regt Died

*1918 On attaining military age. Died in hospital in Cambridge, May 1918*

PAYNE Albert William Private Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment  
He was born in Harpenden on 1 February 1900, eldest of the seven sons of William Payne, a bricklayer; he also had five sisters. They lived in Station Road near the Great Northern Railway station. He had attended the Wesleyan Sunday School. He worked as a gardener for Mr Fouldes of Douglas Road, and later for the Almagam Rubber Company. On attaining military age in February 1918 he enlisted. While undergoing military training he contracted meningitis from which he died in hospital in Cambridge on 28 May 1918, aged 18 years. He was buried in St Nicholas Churchyard, his grave being marked as a war grave.

PEARCE, ARTHUR Salisbury Road 17th Co of London

PEARCE, E.B. Salisbury Rd Pte, Royal Army Veterinary Corps Unfit

*1914 Engaged in treatment of sick horses at the RAVC, St Albans. Medically unfit.*

PEARCE, F.J. c 21 Salisbury Rd Shoeing Smith, RAVC

*1916 Engaged at Longmore Camp. Not overseas.*

PEARCE, G.T. Salisbury Rd Pte, 1st Herts Regt Wounded

*1915 Hill 60, Festubert, wounded in action.*

PEARCE, HAROLD Lower Luton Road

PEARCE Harold, Private 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was born in Harpenden, the son of Joseph and Mary Anne Pearce, then living at Batford Mills. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 5 May 1915, aged 18 years.

POWELL, H.W. 4 Lower Luton Rd Pte, 9th Essex Regt.

*1916 Ypres, Somme, Cambrai*

RICHARDSON, H c 59 Coldharbour Lane 3rd Beds

ROLPH, HAROLD Bowers Heath

ROLPH Harold, Private 2/4 Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry  
He lived with his widowed grandmother at Bowers Heath, Harpenden, and enlisted in Hertford. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 22 August 1917.

SEABROOK, ALEXANDER c 190 Station Rd

SEABROOK Alexander  Lance Corporal Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was born in Harpenden on 9 December 1896, the elder son of Alexander and Emily Seabrook who lived near the Great Northern Railway Station, and later in Cravells Road. He worked in a rubber factory. He was killed in action in the Balkans.

SEABROOK, SIDNEY c 190 Station Rd

SEABROOK Sidney  Private Royal Marines Light Infantry  
He was born in Harpenden, the younger son of Alexander and Emily Seabrook (see above).

SHADBOLT, H.T. 14 St George's Cotts, c 20 Batford Rd Pte, Beds Regt Wounded

*1914 Hill 60, Givenchy, Festubert, Somme, Arras, Cambrai. Wounded three times.* ***Military Medal*** *for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field. Invalided out because of wounds.*

SIBLEY, B.H. 1 South View Rd Air Mechanic, RAF

1*917 Repaired aircraft near Rouen*

SIBLEY, L.G. Tree Cott., c 31 Salisbury Rd Cpl, Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry

*1917 Passchendaele, Lens, Egypt, Palestine, Vale of Jordan. Advance through Syria, capture of Aleppo.*

SWALLOW, A. 8 Batford Rd L/Cpl. Royal Army Service Corps Wounded

*1914 To France 1916, Ypres, Somme, Cambrai, Retreat and Advance of 1918. Wounded*

SYGROVE, H.H. Salisbury Rd Shoeing Smith, Royal Army Veterinary Corps

*1914 Egypt, Canal Zone Vet Hospitals. 1917 to Palestine, tending sick and wounded horses. Gaza, Advance into Syria.*

TAYLOR, GEORGE S c 10 Willoughby Rd 1st Herts RFA

TAYLOR WALTER H c 10 Willoughby Rd 1st Herts RFA

THOMPSON, A. 3 Marquis Lane Pte, Royal Army Service Corps (Motor Transport)

*1916 Western Front, transporting supplies during heavy fighting. Army of Occupation.*

THRALE, R Willoughby Rd Royal Field Artillery Killed 10.2.18

THRALE Ralph Gunner Royal Field Artillery  
He was born in Hertford. He lived with his wife, mother and baby daughter at 1 West View Cottages, Willoughby Road, Harpenden. He worked as a postman and as an attendant at Hill End Hospital. He was an old soldier who had served in India and was on the Reserve List and so was called up on the outbreak of war. He was engaged in heavy fighting in both France and Italy. He was killed in France by a bomb from an enemy aircraft on 10 February 1918, aged 39 years.

TRUSTRAM, J.L. Station Rd Herts Imperial Yeomanry

WARWICK, BERTIE c 28 Lower Luton Rd

WARWICK Bertie Seymour, Private 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was born in Batford, where he lived. He was the second of the six sons of Frederick Warwick, a house painter. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 7 February 1918. \* see Comment below.

WASSELL, C.D. 2 Batford Rd Cpl, Royal Garrison Artillery Wounded

*Pre 1914 Mons, Neuve Chapelle, Arras, Cambrai, Retreat and Advance of 1918. Wounded*

WEBB, J.T. Batford Ho, Salisbury Rd Sgt, Machine Gun Corps Twice wounded

*1914 Arras, Ypres, Cambrai, Somme. Twice wounded.*

WORRALL, H.T. Lower Luton Rd Pte, 1st Beds Regt. Killed

*1914 Western Front in many parts of the line. Killed in action, April 1918.*

WORRALL Henry T.  Private 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment  
He was born in Whitechapel. He lived on the Lower Luton Road in Batford. He volunteered in September 1914, enlisting in St Albans. He died of wounds on the Western Front on 28 April 1918. His name is also on the War Memorial at Wheathampstead.

WRAY, A Lea Cotts, c 98 Lower Luton Rd Pte, Queens (Royal W Surrey) Regt

*1918 Army of Occupation, Cologne and other towns on the Rhine*

WRAY, W. Lea Cotts, c 98 Lower Luton Rd Pte, Royal Fusiliers Killed

*1917 2nd Battle of the Somme, killed in action*

YOUNG, GEORGE Batford Royal Flying Corps