



When shall their glory fade?

This is the largely unchanged text of a booklet released in 2014 by Hamlet Historian, based on a 2005 article entitled '*When shall their glory fade*'. This was a headline used by Dulwich Hamlet in an article written about their war dead in the first post war yearbook. Since the 2014 release, images have emerged of more of those listed on Hamlet's war memorial. Given how little the text has changed, it was decided re-release as a free to download PDF rather than do so in printed form. We thank Jack McInroy for granting permission to do so.

Note in 1914 Dulwich Hamlet had a cricket side and controlled Dulwich St Barnabas F.C. The memorial you see at Champion Hill today is that of Dulwich Hamlet sports club, not Dulwich Hamlet F.C. Several men listed are not known to have represented Dulwich Hamlet F.C.

Walter Lester Lawrence

Date of Death: 2nd December 1914. Age: 22.

Rank & Unit: Private, A Squadron. Royal Bucks Hussars.

Buried: Norwood Cemetery.

The first Hamlet casualty of the First World War was Walter Lawrence. Walter served with the Royal Bucks Hussars, part of the Household Cavalry. Walter, who had left the club by the time of his death, was the youngest of five sons of Walter James and Eliza Anne Lawrence of 114 Rosendale Road. At least three of his brothers also served, two were in uniform by the time of his death. Arthur, also ex Dulwich Hamlet, was serving with the 1st Life Guards whilst Claude, a Hamlet first team player and Committee member, was alongside Walter in the Royal Bucks Hussars. Robert, who enlisted later, was killed in 1918. According to his war records Walter was born in Brixton, though the 1901 census reports Dulwich as his place of birth. By 1911 he is listed as a bookkeeper. At the time of enlistment, he was living in West Dulwich but enlisted in Chesham. The regiment had opened a new HQ, located on Broadway in the town for the Chesham detachment in February 1914. Walter is the only Dulwich Hamlet World War One fatality remembered by the CWGC in South London, on the screen wall at Norwood Cemetery.

The Royal Bucks Hussars were a Yeomanry regiment, the mounted arm of the territorial forces, associated with the Oxford & Bucks Light



The image shows the opening of the club's war memorial. We believe the people in the background may be Walter's brother Claude and their parents.

Claude Lawrence served as a players' representative on the Committee and was a leading player, though he lost much of his career to war.

Infantry. Walter's army number, 647, shows that he was a pre-war member, probably joining in either 1910 or 1911. Unlike many London based territorial regiments Walter would not have been in camp at the outbreak of war, the Royal Bucks Hussars spent the first two weeks of June working at Salisbury Plain. They were mobilised on 5th August, soon leaving Buckinghamshire by train to Bury St Edmonds, before moving to the Great Saxham area and then on to Churn. As territorials the men had to be asked to volunteer for foreign service. Legend has it Captain Cripps stood his Squadron with their backs to a wall and ordered that all not willing to serve abroad take one step backwards. Their training reflected the traditional use of cavalry soldiers and was to prove of little use when they went abroad, by the end of the war the Hussars were being used largely as machine gunners. They didn't move abroad until well after Walter had died, sailing from Avonmouth on 5th April 1915, arriving in Egypt on the 19th. Many of those enlisted pre-war were from an affluent background, including the likes of Lord Rosebery's son the Hon. Lieutenant Neil Primrose M.P, Viscount Duncannon, Sir Everard Duncombe and Captain Lionel de Rothschild. Whilst they had a reputation as a playboy regiment, something that was true of many Yeomanry troops, they were to give valuable war service.

The 1919 Dulwich Hamlet handbook records his rank as Trooper. W. Lawrence appears on the Dulwich Hamlet Junior school war memorial, as does his brother.

George Ernest Vasey (Ernie.)

Date of Death: 27th April 1915. (Contemporary newspapers suggested it was the 26th.)

Rank & Unit: Lance Corporal. 1st/5th Bn. (City of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade.)

Buried: No known grave, remembered on the Menin Gate.

Ernie had left the club by the outbreak of the war but was the first significant footballing figure in our history to be claimed by the war. He had an effective spell in attack for Dulwich Hamlet, after signing from Woodford, becoming recognised as a leading first team player. During his one season with the club he was awarded a London F.A. Badge and featured in the losing 1909 Amateur Cup semi-final. It appears Ernie moved on to Leytonstone as he can be found playing for them in the 1910 Essex Senior Cup final v South Weald. Ernie collected a runner up



George Ernest Vasey (Ernie)

medal in a 1-0 defeat. (Leytonstone became one third of Redbridge Forest FC and subsequently merged into Dagenham & Redbridge.) Ernie was on the move again the following season, playing for Clapton and scoring both goals in their opening day 2-0 win against Shepherd's Bush. Later that season, Redhill appealed against their F.A. Cup replay defeat by Clapton on the grounds that Ernie had played for the Amateur Football Association registered Ilford Avenue. Ernie denied this though Redhill produced a newspaper cutting announcing that he had been selected. The case was dismissed however Clapton had to fund their own costs.

Born in 1887 at Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1901 Ernie was living there as one of a family of 8 children, under Louisa M. Vasey, together with a servant. At the time of enlistment Ernie was living in Leyton, he also enlisted in London. The 1911 census shows the Vasey family had then moved south. Louisa and five children, including Ernie, were resident at 41 Lyndhurst Drive, Leyton. Ernie is listed as a clerk. (Louisa is listed as married suggesting her husband was elsewhere on census night rather than deceased.) Like many of the men in this list Ernie appears to have been a decent standard cricketer. G.E. Vasey can be found opening the batting for Leyton Wanderers C.C. on tour in Sussex in 1909. Two years earlier a man of the same name represented Leyton Wesleyans, intriguingly one of his teammates was a W. Millward. Could it be that this is the same Billy Millward, known to be a high standard cricketer, who was subsequently to be a teammate of Ernie's at Dulwich Hamlet?

The London Regiment was an unusual one in the British army. This territorial regiment was founded in 1908 to regiment various battalions within the newly formed County of London regiment. It remained a collection of distinctive battalions rather than a true regiment. At the outbreak of war 1st/5th were based at 130 Bunhill Row. On 2nd August 1914 they travelled to Eastbourne for their annual camp. Such was the political situation they were sent back to London after just three hours. Mobilisation orders arrived on 5th August; this was completed by the 9th bar the arrival of horses and wagons which were being requisitioned by the War Office. From the 10th onwards the men slept at either the HQ or Merchant Taylors' school, where they also drilled. On August 15th they were asked to accept foreign service terms, territorials were not committed to deploying abroad unless they wished to. Five days later they commenced a three-day route march to Bisley, overnighing at Wimbledon and Hersham. On September 8th they moved off again, reaching East Grinstead on the 10th, where they stopped for six days to

allow their baggage to catch up with them, before leaving for Crowborough. Such marches were probably not too challenging, on April 19th 1914, 62 London Rifle Brigade men had broken the world record for marching from London to Brighton fully equipped, doing it in 14 hours 23 minutes. Whilst at Crowborough they featured in a bizarre hoax when a young man wearing their uniform arrived at a Maidstone hotel and announced he had been sent to find billets for 6,000 members of the London Rifle Brigade. The town set about locating beds and large numbers of people thronged into town to welcome the soldiers. The hoaxer quietly disappeared without paying his hotel bill before the town realised the soldiers were not coming.

On November 5th 1914 the battalion departed for France, sailing from Southampton to Le Havre on the S.S. Chyebassa. (S.S Chyebassa was a 7-year-old P&O ship; it was torpedoed later in the war but did not sink.) Unfortunately, upon arrival at Le Havre regular soldiers took great pleasure in telling them how bad it was at the front whilst a lack of tents meant many men spent a frosty night sleeping in the open. On 20th November they began to enter the trenches, in time to feature in the famous Christmas truce fraternisation to Ploegsteert Wood.

The London Rifle Brigade suffered badly around the time of Ernie's death; he was killed in action. On 19th May 1915 they were forced to form a composite unit with 1st/12th and 1st/13th Battalions until they were made back up to fighting strength. This loss of men occurred in the Second Battle of Ypres. Between April and May they lost 16 Officers and 392 Other Ranks, winning one Victoria Cross. This battle was the only significant assault the Germans launched on the Western Front in 1915, they were busier fighting the Russians on the Eastern Front and this attack was an attempt to divert Allied resources away from the Eastern Front. Five days before Ernie's death 168 tons of chlorine gas were released, the first such incident on the Western Front. The Allied army fled leaving 5,000 dead and 2,000 prisoners.

London Rifle Brigade left their billets on the 24th April charged with filling a three-mile gap in the lines caused by the French territorial and Canadian forces in the area being forced back. They entrained to Poperinghe, marched to Busseboom where the lucky ones sheltered in farm buildings due to heavy rain, many bivouacked. On the 25th the Division was ordered to relieve the Canadians but with them withdrawing no-one was totally sure where either the two ends of the gap in the line were or where the Germans were. They moved to

Vlamertinghe and then in the evening on to St Jean. On the 26th they arrived in the front line at Le Touquet and were quickly shelled, having only been able to dig poor quality trenches. An enemy airplane spotted the new trenches, the battalion history notes that whilst the British press proclaimed Allied air superiority that wasn't true for them during this battle. One man was killed, by a British shell that fell short, however the confusion about the date of Ernie's death suggests he may have survived this shelling and been killed the next day. London Rifle Brigade were ordered to move forward and plug a gap in the line between the Hampshire and Somerset regiments. Such was the confusion they weren't quite sure where either regiment was. Fearing a massacre if they moved by daylight they asked for, and were granted, permission to wait until darkness fell. The men moved forward and dug in, unfortunately there was a bright moon, and they came under shell fire whilst doing so. When the morning arrived, the men didn't even know whether they were the front line. They were. Another casualty had been sustained, killed by an enemy rifle grenade that landed in the trench, injuring another three men. It is likely that fatality was Ernie.

When the Germans abandoned the attack on 25th May, due to a lack of both men and supplies, 59,000 British troops were dead, 10,000 French troops and 35,000 German troops also died.

Due to the way his battalion numbered their men it is not possible to work out a rough enlistment date however it is reasonable to presume a man in France as early as Ernie was a serving territorial pre-war.

Stanley Brace Peart. (Stan.)

Date of Death: 25th May 1915. Age: 23.

Rank & Unit: Rifleman. 1st/21st Bn. (County of London) Battalion (1st Surrey Rifles.)

Buried: No known grave. Remembered on the Le Touret memorial.

Stan was a high-profile figure in South London sporting world; the South London Press printed an article about his death. He was born in Adelaide on 10th August 1891, the youngest of four children, but by 1901 was resident at 15, Camden Street, Peckham. His mother was Australian by birth. Stan, his parents and sister were still resident there in 1911 with Stan employed as a clerk. Stan enlisted in Camberwell but was still resident in Peckham.



Stanley Brace Peart (Stan)

A noted athlete from youth, Stan captained Bellenden Road L.C.C School at cricket, football and swimming. He won the Rutherford Harris Shield, the South London Breast Stroke Championship in 1904, Championship of Dulwich 1904 and 1905, represented the Boys of the East versus the West at cricket, the match was played at The Oval, in 1905 and 1906 before being appointed captain in 1907. By 1910 – 1911 he was playing for Dulwich Hamlet reserves (who were the third team behind the first team and senior team) as they won the Southern Suburban League. He also represented Honor Oak first XI at cricket team, playing alongside several ex-Surrey players, including the great Bobby Abel's son, and featured in their 1913 team. This team was believed by many to be the best since their formation as Star C.C. in 1866. He took 5-13 in a match against Bexleyheath that season, though he retired on doctor's orders before the war commenced.

After finishing his education at Dulwich College, on a London County Council Scholarship, Stan became an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. Pre-war he was working for Kamfersdam Mines Ltd but quickly joined up when war broke out, enlisting on 31st August 1914.

1st/21st were based at Flodden Road in Camberwell but moved to Bedfordshire for training. After training at St Albans, Luton and Harpenden, Stan landed in France on March 16th 1915.

Stan was killed in action at Givenchy, during the Battle of Festubert. He was one of four bombers in the platoon and was sent forward to bomb the enemy, his colleagues were about to go forwards to try and assist other British soldiers in holding a captured trench. A 2nd Lieutenant reported Stan ran out of bombs and was standing on the edge of the enemy trench; bombers often went first, using his bayonet when hit by a bomb however another eyewitness stated he had been shot by a machine gun whilst going over the top. His body was not recovered; his parents were informed he had probably been blown up by a shell in the subsequent action. The nature of the bombers role was such they were unofficially nicknamed 'the suicide squad.' Cricketers were often used for the role.

A picture of Stan appeared on the front page of the Daily Mirror on September 3rd 1915 in a column entitled Heroes of the 1st Surreys. The brief write up lists him as a Dulwich College old boy and fine swimmer

but does not mention football. A tribute also appears in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour.

Archibald John Andrews.

Date of death: 21st May 1916. Age: 26.

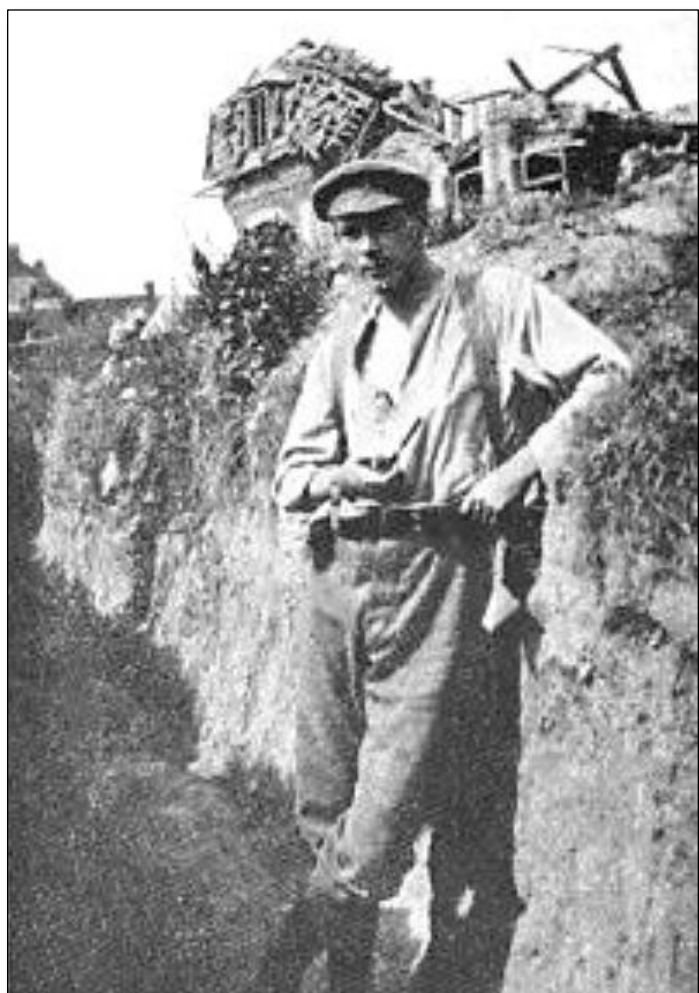
Rank & Unit: Lance Serjeant. 1st/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles.)

Buried: No known grave, remembered on the Arras memorial.

In 2005 when the first version of this article was released, this man was problematic. The 1919 handbook listed him as J.C. Andrews; the war memorial lists him as A.C. Andrews. The 1919 handbook lists J.C. Andrews as a Sergeant in the Civil Service Rifles whilst his position in the Roll of Honour suggested that his death occurred between that of Stan Peart and Reginald Astill. The 2005 article flagged up two candidates, Albert Charles Andrews, a local lad, and Portsmouth resident Archibald John Andrews, who fitted other parts of the description better, before suggesting Albert was the most likely candidate as we could find no evidence linking Archibald to London. Research elsewhere has now solved this mystery and proved Archibald John Andrews should be remembered on the Dulwich Hamlet war memorial.

The proof was provided by research done into the World War One casualties from Portsmouth, subsequently placed on line. Several sites carried what looked suspiciously like a Roll of Honour entry for Archibald stating he played for Dulwich Hamlet. Crucially one site stated their entry is a word for word copy of the Southern Grammar School World War One Roll of Honour entry for Archibald, thus providing primary source proof of his link with the Dulwich Hamlet. If further proof of the primary source were needed, one of the local historians involved subsequently provided us with a photograph of the original Roll of Honour entry.

Archibald was born in 1890 at Portsmouth. He grew up in the Cemetery Lodge at Portsea, his father was the cemetery caretaker. Archibald flourished at school, attending Southern Grammar school from 1900 - 1902 before switching to Portsmouth Grammar school. He is known to have captained the school football team as well as winning school prizes before matriculating at London University aged 16. In 1907 Archibald got a job as a clerk with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In 1911 he can be found at living at home working as a 2nd Division Clerk in the Civil



Archibald John Andrews

Service, a grade he qualified for in September 1910. This was a real achievement; in 1913 2,140 applicants competed for 100 positions. This was a good career option for intelligent youngsters without social standing to assist them. A typical 2nd Division Clerk could aspire to have a reasonable house with live in servant by their 30's - 40's. At some stage Archibald relocated to London, where he represented both Dulwich Hamlet and Civil Service FC. His Roll of Honour entry also records him as representing both Surrey and Middlesex FA's and to have toured abroad with representative teams. Whilst he enlisted in London, Archibald declared Portsmouth as his place of residence.

Archibald joined the territorial forces in 1912. It seems likely he was resident in London when he enlisted as the Civil Service Rifles were London based, at Somerset House, drawing from people employed within the Civil Service. On the evening of August 1st 1914 the Civil Service Rifles met at Somerset House ahead of their annual fortnight camp at Perham Down, Salisbury Plain. They were to return to London after just 24 hours due to the deteriorating political position. Initially they trained in London, usually Regents Park or Battersea Park. On August 16th the 2nd London Division were sent to Hertfordshire. The Civil Service Rifles went to billets at Bedmond, near Hemel Hempstead. It took a two-day march, broken by a camp in Edgware. In November 1914 they were billeted in Watford. On March 17th 1915 Archibald travelled to Le Havre, departing from Watford station, as a Lance Serjeant. Archibald spent a year predominantly in the Souchez area; he is likely to have taken part in battles such as Festubert and Loos. He was killed in the latter. On May 21st his regiment were in reserve at Camblain L'Abbe when the Germans launched an attack on Vimy Ridge. The civil servants were close enough to hear the gunfire. Archibald was winning in a cards game, something that was viewed as unlucky and it is reported that he informed a colleague he was certain to die in the looming action. Moving forwards towards the scene of the action they came under the first box barrage artillery attack of the war. The Civil Service Rifles were ordered into action.

In the early hours of 22nd March a counter attack was launched to regain trenches seized by Germans a few hours before. Whilst his official date of death was 21st some contemporary sources suggest Archibald was killed in the early hours of 22nd, fitting perfectly with this attack. Two waves of men advanced up the slopes of Vimy Ridge without artillery or machine gun support. They were met with artillery, trench mortar, machine gun and rifle fire. The men who got through this to the

captured ex British front line found the Germans had strengthened it with barbed wire and could not go any further. The survivors sought refuge in shell holes. Roll call later revealed 9 dead, 98 wounded and 15 missing from the Civil Service Rifles. The official regimental history recorded: -

"Hitherto the Battalion had succeeded in preserving more or less its original identity, but here, in the short space of twenty-four hours, practically all that was left of the original 'B' Company had been swept away."

Just 18 men returned from Archibald's B Company. Archibald was last spotted by the barbed wire, attacking the German line. His body was recovered a few days later by a patrol and interred at Souchez Canadian Cemetery. Archibald's body was subsequently lost, probably during the 1917 Battle of Vimy Ridge. Archibald is now remembered on the Arras memorial; the same fate befell most of his 26 comrades who were buried after actions from 21st - 23rd May. Just 3 have a known grave today.

This leaves us with the question of whether Archibald, known as 'Driver Andrews' to his army colleagues, is actually the person listed as Andrews A.C or whether he was missed off the Dulwich Hamlet war memorial? The balance of probability is that he is represented as Andrews A.C and that this is an error on the memorial. His parents were almost certainly unknown to the club to check his full name and he had departed for Civil Service F.C. Given the 1919 Handbook calls him J.C. Andrews, lists him as being in the Civil Service Rifles and places his death in the right place chronologically – two parts of which he fits perfectly and one he nearly fits – it seems likely this is our man and that the entry on the war memorial is erroneous.

Note that regimental records also refer to an Archibald 'Long' Andrews. Surviving photos of 'Long' Andrews strongly suggest this was a second name for 'Driver' Andrews however the contemporary Roll of Honour only records the nickname 'Driver.'

Reginald Astill. (Reg.)

Date of Death: 1st July 1916.

Rank & Unit: Rifleman. 1st/9th Bn. (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria Rifles.)

Buried: No known grave. Remembered on the Thiepval memorial.

The first of two Astill brothers to die in the war. Both are listed on the Dulwich Hamlet Junior school memorial; neither are known to have played for Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. They represented the now defunct Dulwich Hamlet Cricket Club. Dulwich Hamlet was then a multi-sport club, like many established in Victorian times. Dulwich Hamlet cricket club, rambling club and cycling club are known to have existed, other sections were planned but we have not found proof they got off the ground. It is possible Reg also represented the club at football as most DHCC members were also associated with the football club, however in a contemporary list of those serving produced by DHFC both Reg and his brother are listed as cricketers. (It is often overlooked that several men associated with Dulwich Hamlet played county and even test cricket.)

Reg was born at Herne Hill in 1895. In the 1901 census he is living with his parents, two siblings and grandmother at 15, Hitherfield Road in Streatham. By 1911 he and Ernest, also to die in the war, were living with their parents on Woodstock Road in Carshalton. Reg enlisted in London. Pre-war he was working as a clerk; the 1911 census saw him listed as a junior clerk.

Reg was killed in action on the first day of the Somme offensive. His battalion were involved in an assault on trenches near Gommecourt. Despite heavy casualties at the hands of machine guns and artillery, the assault was initially successful, the battalion advanced to the German third line. However, a shortage of grenades meant it became difficult to hold their position against counterattacks and by mid-afternoon they had been driven back to the first line of German trenches. A few survivors were holding the line but by 7p.m. they were driven out. They suffered 352 casualties and 192 missing: in total over half the battalion. Added together the battalion casualties for the 1st and 2nd Battalions total 588 men. His brother Ernest was wounded on the same day.

1st/9th were based at 56, Davies Street pre-war. After mobilisation they moved to Pirbright. In September moved south to Crowborough. They

were sent to France in November 1914 however Reg's army number suggests that he enlisted after the war started, meaning he would not have been with the Battalion at that point.

George Arthur Popple.

Date of Death: 1st July 1916.

Rank & Unit: Sergeant. 1st/12th Bn. (County of London) Battalion (The Rangers.)

Buried: No known grave. Remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Pop was the second Hamlet man to die on the opening day of the Somme. He lived in Upper Tooting and had previously served in both France and Flanders. He was sent to France on Christmas Eve 1914 but was back in South London recuperating in the early part of summer 1915, after being wounded whilst serving as a policeman near the front. Sadly for him he recovered in time to return for the offensive on the Somme. It is quite possible he died before the attack even started. The Rangers sustained many casualties from shelling whilst still in their own trenches. They were deployed at Gommecourt in what was a diversionary attack, the troops were ordered to make it obvious an attack was coming in the hope the German army would move extra men into the area from other parts of the Somme. Those who did get out of their trenches found the German barbed wire virtually intact, despite the pre attack bombardment. Well positioned German machine guns had a devastating impact on the men. The Rangers attack was the first to falter in the Gommecourt area, something the Germans exploited with bombing counter attacks.

Pop was probably the best of the Hamlet footballers killed in the war. He made his full debut on 6th September 1913 in a 1-1 draw at Guard's Depot, though he featured in the famous Netherlands tour of Easter 1913. The tour saw Dulwich win all three games, including a 4-1 victory at Ajax. Pop played in all three tour matches. He was a regular first team half back in 1913/14, playing in 38 out of their 43 matches, earning himself selection for the North v South Amateur International trial match on January 24th 1914, held at Oxford City. The North won 3-2. He had already played for the Southern Counties v London at Stamford Bridge that season. This was an amateur international trial match for uncapped players. Later that season he represented London v Birmingham at Tufnell Park. The London team included Vivian Woodward a full and amateur international who captained Britain to an Olympic gold in



George Arthur Popple

football in 1908 and 1912. The same season also saw Pop represent Surrey F.A. It appears that he was selected for the June 1914 English Wanderers tour to Spain, a newspaper refers to an A. Popple being in the tour party. English Wanderers appear to have been an unofficial England amateur team, under F.A. control but not recognised as the full England amateur team. Another name familiar to the Hamlet was also in the touring party, Hussein Hegazi. The King of Spain was one of the spectators at their 4-0 win over Racing Club of Irun. They played at least two more games, both against Athletic Club Bilbao winning them 5-3 and 6-0. Athletic Club Bilbao were the biggest team in Spain at the time and were regional champions - the national league had not been founded. The same month saw them play Clapton Orient, the first visit to Spain by a British professional team according to contemporary press.

Pop started his career elsewhere; sources differ but it appears Hamlet signed him from Croydon. He can be found playing for them in a January 1913 1-0 defeat at Guards Depot in the Southern Suburban League. Croydon started the game with just ten men and with Pop playing in goal. The match report suggests he was a competent keeper. (Incidentally other Croydon match reports for that season list the goalkeeper as one E.H. Coleman.) Up front was J. Popple, presumably his older brother John. Dulwich probably saw Pop play for Surrey F.A. when with Croydon, E.H. Coleman was his Surrey teammate in some of these matches. Due to Pa Wilson's role at Surrey F.A. it is highly likely he would have watched Pop. Also, there were often Dulwich players in the Surrey team, for example A.C Knight and Pop played together against the French Ligue de Football Association Paris team at Guildford in February 1913. Nine of the Paris team were internationals. Pop's last known goals for the Hamlet came in December 1914 when he grabbed a brace against Leytonstone. Pop was a favourite of the Hamlet fans, his all action - at times rough - style appealing to them.

Born in 1892 in Banbury, the 1901 census shows a 9-year-old of this name living at St Dunston's Road, Hanwell. In 1911 Pop can be found living at 16, Noyna Road with his parents and siblings, working as a clerk.

1st/12th were based at Chenies Street pre-war. On mobilisation they moved to Pirbright and then on to Crowborough. In October they were sent to guard the Waterloo to North Camp railway line. (North Camp is between Aldershot and Farnborough.) This was a sensitive posting as earlier in the war another battalion of the London Regiment gained a reputation as trigger happy, they were removed after a deaf civilian was

shot dead just outside Aldershot having failed to respond to commands to halt whilst walking near the railway line.

Note team listings sometimes record G.A. Popple as A. Popple suggesting he may have used the name Arthur. One example is the Surrey Mirror report on the Surrey v Sussex game on February 11th 1914 which gives a team listing which includes A. Popple. Fellow Hamlet men goalkeeper H. Clegg and forwards George Shipway and E. Rogers helped Surrey to a 3-1 win. The latter two both scored.

Tom Rose.

Date of Death: 2nd August 1916. Age: 35.

Rank & Unit: Bombardier. 156th Brigade. Royal Field Artillery.

Buried: St Sever Communal Cemetery. Rouen.

Tom, sometimes Tommy, was one of the biggest names in Dulwich's history to die during the war. A key player in the early days of the 20th century his career spanned the era that saw Dulwich Hamlet emerge as the top team in Dulwich, against competition from the likes of Dulwich F.C. and Townley Park. Townley Park would fold in 1916 due to losing so many members to the war effort. Remaining funds were donated to King's College Hospital. Dulwich F.C. had to relocate to West London in the early part of the 20th century after failing to secure a local ground.

Tom was born around November 1880; his father was a fish merchant but died aged 41 in 1888. Tom grew up in Cleethorpes and was a bright lad, continuing in education until at least 20. He moved to London to take up a teaching post and made his Hamlet debut in the second game of 1903/4, a friendly at Chesham Town. He made an immediate impression, being the first Hamlet player known to have scored a hat trick on what was seemingly his Dulwich debut. It is quite possible he scored in his first eight games though he certainly drew a blank in a 0-3 home defeat to Wingfield House - later Nunhead. That match was the first time Dulwich Hamlet conceded three goals at home to a London team without scoring. Tom's fine form was overshadowed by events in his third game, a 2-1 defeat at Townley Park. James Kelly was accidentally kicked in the stomach by fellow Dulwich player Jimmy Murphy. James played on but left the pitch after vomiting and was sent home. On 7th October 1903 he died from peritonitis, a direct result of



Tom Rose

the kick received whilst playing for Dulwich Hamlet. The season ended on a happier note; Dulwich won the Southern Suburban League.

By the next season Tom had completed his transition from centre forward to right wing. 1904 - 1905 saw him selected by Surrey F.A., Dulwich had been disgruntled at the failure of Surrey to pick players from the 'border clubs.' Tom also featured in the Surrey Senior Cup final winning team that season. Incredible as it may now seem the final, held at Croydon, was watched by about 5,000. Tom was also a good standard cricketer and can be found playing for Dulwich Hamlet C.C. that summer. When the local papers reported his death, one of the mentioned his cricketing prowess ahead of his footballing career.

1905/1906 saw Dulwich firmly establish themselves as the top team in Dulwich, signing the five Buck brothers from Townley Park. Early season saw Tom's position under threat but he re-established himself as a regular. The season ended with Tom again in the Surrey team and helping Dulwich to win the Surrey Charity Shield, Surrey Senior Cup and end up as Runners Up in the London Senior Cup. They would probably have won the Southern Suburban League; but scratched in order to fit in so many late season cup games. The Surrey Senior Cup ended with Dulwich furious after Surrey F.A. ordered the replay to be replayed due to crowd congestion, causing them to encroach on the pitch. The original match was held at Crystal Palace on the same day as the 1906 F.A. Cup Final. Dulwich boycotted the post-match concert; Tom was never selected for Surrey again. He did represent Surrey during the 1905/06 season, he, Jimmy Murphy and S. Buck helped Surrey to a 3-0 win over Hertfordshire. S. Buck scored two of the goals.

1906/1907 would probably have seen more silverware but Dulwich withdrew from the Surrey Senior Cup, after the Surrey F.A. scheduled the final in the middle of their post season tour of the Channel Islands. 1907/1908 again saw Tom under threat for his position but he won through against younger rivals. Tom picked up another runner up medal, this time the London Senior Cup and took part in the clubs first foreign tour, which saw Hamlet defeat Haarlem and Dordrecht.

The Buck brothers walked out en mass in the run up to the 1908/1909 season, establishing Surrey Wanderers F.C. The first team they fielded featured six of the seven Buck brothers. Ernie Vasey, killed in 1915, was one of the men signed to replace them. The season saw more success, including an Amateur Cup semi-final, earning Dulwich a £42 share of the

gate. Opponents Eston United received £74. The Surrey Senior Cup was also won however Tom didn't play. He drifted out of the first team mid-season. Press reports suggest he may have been carrying a few pounds by the end of his career.

Tom was important locally off the pitch. Like many others at the club, including Pa Wilson, he was right wing politically. In 1912 he was elected to Camberwell Borough Council as a Municipal Reformer, a Tory under another name. By then Tom was an Assistant Master at Beresford Street School and lived at 3 Goschens House, Peckham Road. It is known that Tom had ambitions to get into the House of Commons.

On 14th July 1915 Mayor A.C. Rogers received a letter from Lord Kitchener inviting him to form an artillery or engineering brigade. It was agreed they would raise 'Camberwell Gun Brigade.' Recruiting started on 15th February. After a good start, recruitment was trailing off when Tom Rose enlisted as a high-profile recruit seven days later. Tom was to spend part of his training on the Hamlet ground; it seems to have taken all of Pa's political skill and contacts to stop the ground from being requisitioned. The club did get a little upset at the soldiers' habit of smashing ginger beer bottles on the pitch. A young Edgar Kail was one of those involved trying to keep the ground in decent condition.

After a spell of final training in Wiltshire, Tom landed in France on 11th December 1915. Initially posted to the relatively quiet La Bassee sector, in July 1916 he went to the Somme. On 19th July Tom was helping to position his gun when a shell burst nearby. This was a dangerous time, there were unlikely to be suitable slit trenches nearby. Tom was wounded by a shell splinter below the left elbow. Tom was sent to Field Hospital 12 in Rouen and was expected to recover quickly. Something went badly wrong and an infection set in, this proved fatal.

Note his name was Tom not Thomas; he had a brother named Thomas. Tom was a member of the National Union of Teachers, East Lambeth branch, and appears on their Roll of Honour. Two names below him in the list is Lewisham branch member Victor Rosewarne, a one-time rival for Tom's shirt in the Hamlet team. Rosewarne survived the war but would lose a son during World War Two. Many of the early Hamlet players and officials were schoolmasters, including the ill-fated James Kelly, early secretary Charles Wheeler and founding official William Brenchley. They would sometimes stay on after the Easter Tour officially finished and the rest of the party had returned home and to work.

Louis Frank Seidel.

Date of Death: 14th August 1916.

Rank & Unit: Commander. Uganda Volunteer Reserve.

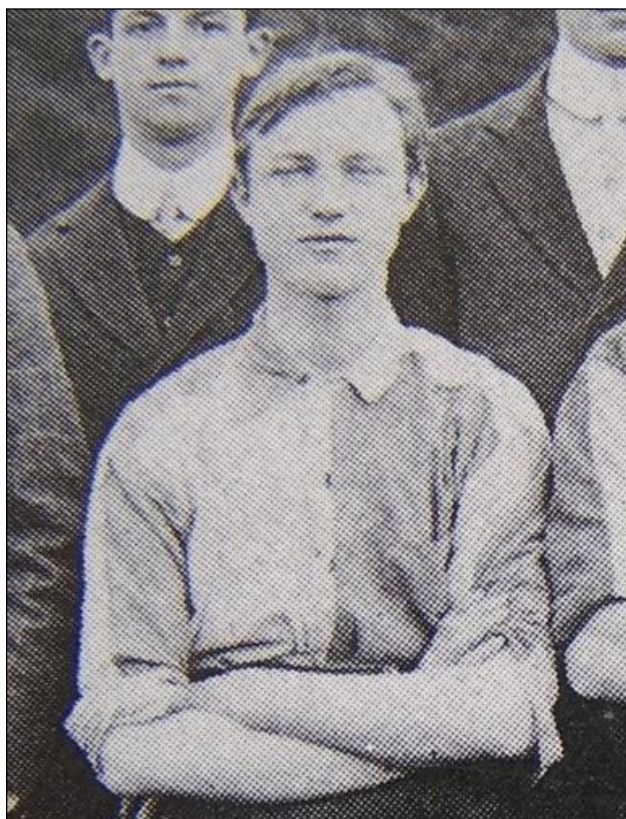
Buried: Vol Cemetery, Kenya.

The circumstances surrounding Louis Seidel's death are slightly murky. The South London Press mentions his death in an article dated 17th September 1915. Louis doesn't appear in a list of those serving that appeared in the match day programme of 31st October 1914 but does appear as alive and serving in the 1916 version of that list. The balance of probability is that The South London Press article was wrong and Louis died on 14th August 1916, which is the date used by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery he lies in opened in 1915 and holds just 127 graves; some of those buried there are post war re-burials.

His service unit suggests that Louis was abroad at the start of the war. However he is known to have been in London in January, he played for Old Wilsonians versus Dulwich Wood, who featured fellow war memorial entrant Len Rawling. Louis was employed as a teacher at Wilson's School at the time. It seems likely he moved to Africa before the outbreak of war.

The Uganda Volunteer Reserve emerged from the Uganda Rifle Corps, founded in 1903. Louis may well have enlisted when No.2 or 4 Corps were founded in June and October 1914 respectively. (No. 3 Co. was for Indian nationals.) Whilst they were not to fight as a formed unit during the war, its men filled many roles and saw much action. The fact Louis is buried in Kenya suggests that he was involved in the largely forgotten East African campaign. The Germans deployed a column here that successfully tied up an Allied force via guerrilla tactics. Allied forces to suppress them were largely ineffectual. Peace did not arrive in this campaign until 13th November 1918.

Louis was one of the many Britons of German heritage to fight during the war. Born in 1889, in the 1891 census Louis can be found living at Railton Road with his parents Louis Snr. and Emelie Seidel. Both were born in Germany. Two-year-old Louis had an older brother, Charles. In the 1901 census his stepfather and mother, Paul and Emelie Dillrich, can be found living at 210, Railton Road with four children including the 12-



Louis Frank Seidel

year-old Louis. Paul was also German. Both he and Louis Snr. were hairdressers. In 1911 the family was living at 168, Railton Road with Louis earning his living as a clerk. If Paul and Emelie were still in London in 1914, as evidence suggests they were, it is quite plausible that they were interned, possibly at Frith Hill just outside Frimley where a Prisoner of War and Internment Camp played host to many German born Londoners.

Louis appears on Dulwich Hamlet Junior School's war memorial, as does his younger brother William Hermann Alfred Seidel. Perhaps understandably William chose to serve as W.H. Spencer and died on 27th October 1917, aged 20, whilst serving as a Private in the Middlesex Yeomanry. He is buried at Beersheba war cemetery, in modern day Israel. William died four days before the start of the Battle of Beersheba. We cannot trace William as representing Dulwich Hamlet.

Like many names on this list, it is likely that Louis never represented Dulwich Hamlet. He is known to have played for the now defunct Dulwich St Barnabas. Despite the name this was very much part of the Dulwich Hamlet family, being the fourth team in 1914. We have no record of William Seidel representing the club.

Francis W. Hagger. (Frank.)

Date of Death: 1st October 1916.

Rank & Unit: Rifleman. 1st/16th Bn. (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles.)

Buried: No known grave. Remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Another victim of The Somme; Frank initially enlisted in the navy and served as secretary to the Captain of HMS Lyons until it was decommissioned in December 1915. HMS Lyons had been built in 1885 as S.S. Lyons, owned by the London Brighton South Coast railway company. In 1910 it was converted into a salvage vessel. Requisitioned on 5th August 1914 she was re-named HMS Lyons and served as a salvage ship. She was subsequently used as a Q ship, set up to look like a merchant ship she carried hidden arms to attack any submarines who took an interest.



Francis W. Hagger - Frank

Frank's final known appearance in Hamlet colours came on 26th December 1915 when he turned up in a Naval Assistant Paymasters uniform, just after his ship was decommissioned. He subsequently signed up for the army and went missing during a night raid.

Before the war Frank was on the fringes of the first team. He was in the touring party that visited the Netherlands at Easter 1913. Dulwich won all three games, 4-1 v Ajax, 4-2 v Sparta (better known today as Sparta Rotterdam, they were Dutch champions in 1912/13) and 2-0 v Quick FC Nijmegen. Frank played in one of the games. He appeared in 25 non first XI matches in 1913/14. He had been appointed Vice-Captain of the Senior team for 1914/15. (The Senior team played in the Isthmian Reserve League and ranked ahead of the reserve team, who were actually the third team and played in the Southern Suburban League.) His status as one of the more high-profile victims saw the club pay tribute to him (together with Messrs. Popple, Bescoby and Clarkson) by including his portrait in the 1919/20 handbook.

It has not proved possible to positively identify Frank through the census records however a Francis W. Hagger, born in Dalston in 1891, may be our man. If so, he was living in Hackney in 1891. By 1911 he is living with his parents and two younger siblings in Leytonstone and employed as a civil service assistant clerk - a job which fits with his Royal Navy role. Frank also represented Leytonstone at some point in his career and is known to have played cricket in East London, suggesting this is the same man.

Reginald Walker.

PROBABLY Date of death: 23rd December 1916.

Rank & Unit: Private. 11th Bn. The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment.)

Buried: Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery.

This is the weakest of all entries here in terms of historical provenance. However, there is one candidate who stands out as the most likely match with 'our' man. He was born in Streatham, lived in West Dulwich and enlisted in Lambeth. He died of wounds; the graveyard where he is buried is on the site of a military hospital which operated from October 1914 until September 1917.

An R. Walker appears on the Dulwich Hamlet Junior school war memorial.

William George Dunbar Clarkson. (Willie.)

Date of death: 31st March 1917.

Rank & Unit: Private. 7th Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

Buried: No known grave. Honoured on the Arras memorial.

Born in 1891, Willie can be found living at 244 Friern Road, Camberwell in the 1901 census together with his parents, five siblings and a servant. By 1911 the family was resident at 136 Lavenham Road, Wandsworth. Willie was working as a warehouse man.

Willie was one of the better known, to his contemporaries of the fatalities. Willie featured in the famous Netherlands tour of Easter 1913. The tour saw Dulwich win all three games, including a 4-1 victory at Ajax. Willie played in all three tour matches. Willie was Vice Captain of the Senior team in 1913/14, making 23 non first team appearances.

His last known appearance for Dulwich was in a 4-0 F.A. Amateur Cup win over Richmond Association in January 1915. Three members of that team were to fall in the war. Dulwich often put out scratch teams during the war. Club policy was to give preference to military opponents, for example defeating the Royal Naval Division 3-1 in November 1917. It wasn't unknown for Hamlet players to represent the opponents, if war work caused short notice loss of players.

Hamlet had a policy of playing men returning from the front on leave whenever possible with youngsters usually making up the numbers. On November 11th 1916 Dulwich lost 6-0 to Guard's Depot, a team which featured several pre-war professional footballers. The Dulwich team included the likes of a 16-year-old goalkeeper, 17-year-old back and surprisingly not mentioned by age, a 15-year-old school boy named Edgar Kail up front. One of the two pre-war players featuring that



William George Dunbar Clarkson (Willie)

day, H. Eaves, had returned from the front after sustaining injuries. The Surrey Mirror noted with some sympathy that Dulwich Hamlet were missing sixty members to the forces. (Hamlet men also featured for other teams, for example in October 1915 Hamlet player Lance Corporal Dutton scored the Army Pay Corps consolation goal in a 4-1 defeat by the 2nd Sportsman's Battalion at Gidea Park whilst in October 1917 W. Smart scored the Royal Naval Depot's winner in a 2-1 win at Luton. In 1915 Dulwich player Sergeant C.J. Lawrence, known to Dulwich Hamlet as Claude, was on the football committee of the Royal Bucks Hussars. He had also served on the Dulwich Hamlet FC Committee. Two of his brothers feature in this booklet.)

Willie had been promoted to Senior Team captain for 1914/15 with fellow fatality Frank Hagger replacing him as Vice-Captain. It is known Willie went missing during a working party. He was due to return to England shortly for training, prior to taking up a commission. Guard's Depot also feature in Willie's story, albeit the cricket club. Dulwich Hamlet C.C were playing Guard's Depot C.C in Caterham as the country slid towards war. Willie was in the Dulwich team. It was reported that as news spread the Guard's Depot team had to leave the pitch for rather more pressing engagements. 13-year-old Edgar Kail was the DHCC scorer that day. Unsurprisingly the Guard's Depot v Dulwich Hamlet pre-season football match scheduled for September 1st 1914 was cancelled.

The Royal Sussex Regiment had a recruiting depot locally and was the regiment whose details the club listed in the Dulwich Hamlet match day programme versus Crystal Palace when encouraging fans to enlist in the early days of the war. The suspicion is that this may have had something to do with Billy Millward. A well-known Dulwich player, who had emigrated to Argentina, Billy was at home on leave visiting his father in Eastbourne when the war broke out. Billy enlisted as a Private in the 11th Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment. By the time he lost a leg in on 29th March 1918 he was a Lieutenant General and acting Brigadier General, one of the most dramatic rises in the history of the British army. It is highly probable that the main character in the Edmund Blunden poem 'The Welcome' is Billy - by then known by his middle name of Colsey. A full feature on Billy / Colsey Millward can be found in Hamlet Historians no. 19 and 20.

Willie's brother Alistair was also a prominent player at Dulwich prior to the war. He was injured during the war and never fully attained the

heights which seemed possible when he first emerged through the lesser teams. Like Willie, Alistair represented Dulwich Hamlet at cricket.

Walter Reginald Wheeler. (Reginald.)

Date of death: 31st March 1917. Age: 27.

Rank & Unit: Rifleman 2nd/21st Bn.(County of London) Battalion (1st Surrey Rifles.)

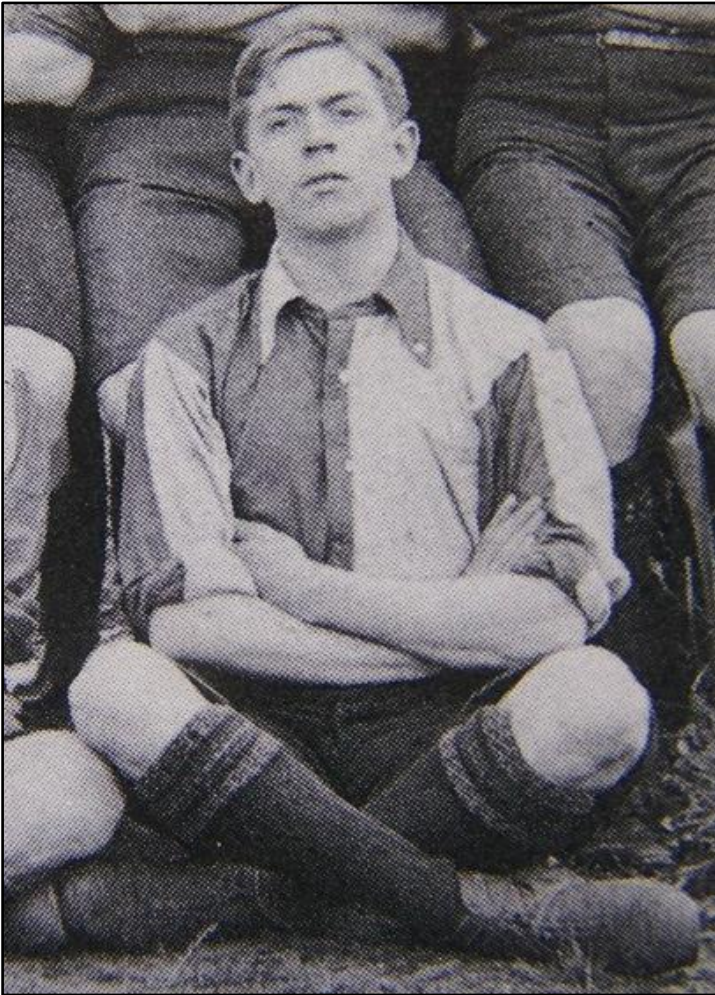
Buried: Salonika Military Cemetery.

The second Dulwich death on 31st March 1917 occurred when Reginald succumbed to wounds. He died in a little-known theatre of war, the Balkans. In October 1915 the Greek premier invited the Allied forces to occupy Salonika. An Anglo-French force consisting of two large battalions were sent to assist the Serbs against Bulgarian aggression; the Serbs lost before the force arrived. A pragmatic decision was made to keep the force there, a decision opposed by many Greeks. Even King Constantine backed the Germans however the Allied shipping capability was needed more urgently at Gallipoli. In August 1916 the Greek army did join the Allied war effort, after a revolution.

Reginald was born in Ifield and was still living in Sussex in 1901. Despite his surname he does not seem to be related to Dulwich secretary George Wheeler as he can be found in the 1911 census living at 107 Rosendale Road, Lambeth with his parents William and Caroline. Like many of those featured he was employed as a clerk.

Reginald enlisted in Camberwell and left a widow, Alice F.E. Wheeler, who lived at 178 Ladywell Road, Lewisham. Reginald is another of those who probably didn't represent Dulwich Hamlet. He is known to us as a player and committee man at Dulwich St Barnabas. He was on their committee for the 1914/15 season.

2nd/21st were founded at Camberwell in August 1914 to replace the territorial units who were departing for the front. Initially most of the men stayed at home, reporting daily for training using Japanese rifles as no proper rifles or kit were available to them until late 1915. They were deployed to France in June 1916 and then on to Salonika in November 1916 via Marseilles and Malta. They did not return to the Western Front.



Walter Reginald Wheeler (Reginald)

Leonard John Rawling. (Len)

Date of death: 12th April 1917. Age: 29.

Rank & Unit: Private. 7th Bn. Royal Sussex Regiment.

Buried: No known grave. Honoured on the Arras memorial.

Another ex-member of the Hamlet club to die in action, Len served in the same battalion as Willie Clarkson and was killed in action just twelve days later, during the 2nd Battle of Arras.

Born at Herne Hill, he can be found in the 1891 and 1901 census' living at 41 Milton Road, Lambeth with his parents, siblings and a servant. Len spent time at Dulwich Hamlet School, representing South London School F.A. whilst at the school. By 1911 the family are living at 23 Ardbeg Road in Herne Hill with Len working as a 'public house gauger and valuer'.

Whilst Len made first team appearances in his late teens / early twenties he subsequently found the competition from the three Lawrence brothers too much, often making way for them. He can be found featuring for the reserve team at Leatherhead in September 1907, playing as a back. Leatherhead won 3-2. Fellow fatality Tom Rose also played.

Len subsequently left Dulwich Hamlet and assisted the rise of Dulwich Wood F.C to senior status as their captain, he also served on the committee. The Splints attained senior status by joining the Surrey Amateur League at the end of the 1909/10 season, described as a young and promising team. (Note this league came under the control of the Amateur Football Association not the F.A. Dulwich Hamlet nailed their colours firmly to the F.A's cause. Townley Park also went with the A.F.A.)

Len can be found playing half back for Dulwich Wood in the 1912/13 season in matches against teams such as Reigate Priory and Leatherhead. Dulwich Wood applied for membership of the Southern Amateur League at the end of that season but were rejected in favour of Cambridge Town (now Cambridge City) and Weybridge, who had been early opponents for Dulwich Hamlet. Had Dulwich Wood been elected, they would have been playing against current Football League members Ipswich Town and enjoyed a local derby with Townley Park. Instead, they ended up playing the likes of a lesser Cambridge Town team in the Southern Olympian League during 1913/14. Dulwich Hamlet



Leonard John Rawling (Len)

were not the only local team to undertake foreign tours, in 1911 Dulwich Wood went on tour in France.

Sixteen Dulwich Wood players enlisted in the early days of the war, leading to the club suspending operations. They appear not to have resumed post war. The club was due to move to a ground on the Champion Hill complex for 1914/15, the outbreak of war meant Dulwich Wood didn't move in.

Leonard was killed in the 2nd Battle of Arras, probably during the 1st Battle of the Scarpe phase. Arras is little remembered today compared to the likes of The Somme and Passchendaele, but was one of the most important actions the British Expeditionary Force took part in. The British launched a large assault on the German troops, who had made a tactical withdrawal to the Hindenburg line, on 9th April. Initial successes, such as the Canadians seizing the important high ground at Vimy Ridge, soon waned and it became a very cost affair in terms of casualties prior to the end of the battle on 15th May 1917. The day Len died D Coy suffered badly after being caught out in the open whilst moving position.

Leonard transferred regiments, Dulwich Hamlet record him as serving in the 1st Sportsman's Battalion, 23rd Royal Fusiliers in lists of serving members and ex members produced in October 1914 and April 1916. This is corroborated by the official history of the battalion in the war. On 23rd January 1915 Brentford F.C played the Sportsman's Battalion at Griffin Park. The Middlesex Chronicle reports that "*Rawlins*" of Dulwich Hamlet was due to play. Perhaps the best-known name to feature was Patsy Hendren; whilst better known as a test cricketer he also represented the likes of Brentford, QPR, Manchester City and Coventry City. The Brentford game was the battalion's first against a professional team; they were noted as a strong team. In the weeks leading up to the game they defeated Dulwich Hamlet and Leytonstone, drew with Clapton and lost to London Caledonians. The picture shows Len representing the Footballers Battalion, he was sitting next to Patsy Hendren.

The 23rd Bn. Royal Fusiliers, or Sportsman's Battalion, were a pals battalion established at the Hotel Cecil on The Strand in September 1914. Many of its recruits were well known sportsmen. The term sportsman encompassed field sports and those who enjoyed an open-air lifestyle as well as the likes of football, cricket and boxing. The Scottish hunting estates provided many recruits. Due to the sporting background

of many recruits the battalion was allowed to recruit from above the normal age limits. After training at Hornchurch, they landed in Boulogne in November 1915.

7th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment were formed at Chichester on 12th August 1914 as part of K1, the first 100,000 volunteers. They were moved to Shorncliffe in October 1914 before being billeted in Folkestone in December 1914. In March 1915 they moved to Ramillies Barracks, Aldershot prior to landing at Boulogne on 1st June 1915.

Like many others in this booklet, Len Rawling appears on the Dulwich Hamlet Junior School war memorial. He appears to have been a decent standard cricketer, an L.J. Rawling opened the batting for North Dulwich Cricket Club on tour in summer 1912. He scored 95 out of a total of 190 in a comprehensive defeat by Hythe. He returned a year later, whilst he only scored 6 North Dulwich did win that game. Len also represented Dulwich Hamlet at cricket after departing the football club.

William Henry Nixon.

Date of death: 24th April 1917. Age: 26.

Rank & Unit: 2nd Lieutenant. 298 Siege Battery, Special Reserve, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Buried: Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, near Ypres.

William's parents lived at 190a Ranmore, Lordship Lane. It seems likely that he spent his life locally as a youngster of the right name and age can be found in Lambeth in both the 1891 and 1901 census data.

The Royal Garrison Artillery was responsible for the large, heavy calibre artillery howitzers during the war. Most were equipped with 6-inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, though some had larger road and rail mounted howitzers. They were often placed behind the front line. Despite his burial location the date of death suggests that William was not a victim of the official Battle of Ypres.

William was a member of the Special Reserve. Special Reservists enlisted for six years. This commenced with six months full time training, paid at professional soldiers' rates. They would then train for 3 – 4 weeks a year. They could extend their term by 4 years but not beyond the age of 40. The 64,000 Special Reservists were mobilised in early August 1914.

Note that Soldiers Died in the Great War lists his date of death as 14th August, the date above is the official date as recorded by Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Frank Sydney Marsh.

Date of death: 28th April 1917. Age: 23.

Rank & Unit: 2nd Lieutenant. 1st Bn. Royal Marines Light Infantry. Royal Navy.

Buried: No known grave. Honoured on the Arras memorial.

Another Hamlet casualty of the 2nd Battle of Arras, Frank had a varied military career. In 1914 he was listed as being in the 21st County of London Regiment. He impressed his superiors, by 1916 he was at the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps. We know he spent time in training in Lichfield with fellow Hamlet casualty Eddie Bescoby. Frank died fighting with the Royal Marines Light Infantry. He had been commissioned by them on 22nd November 1916 and drafted on 8th February 1917.

Frank was killed at the largely forgotten action of Gavrelle Windmill, part of the Battle of Arras, which saw the Royal Marines sustain the worst single action losses in their history. Frank's battalion was one of two Royal Marines battalion deployed. 1st Battalion were ordered to seize some unfinished trenches, to link up with neighbouring 2nd Division and then to jointly advance to a set point where they would link up with their own 2nd Battalion. Amongst the targets for No. 2 Battalion was the old village windmill which gives the action its name. No.1 Battalion war diary simply records: -

"Bn. attacked on sector left of GAVRELLE -OPPY Line at 4.25am & gained objective but was driven out by counter attacks. Following officer casualties - Lt. Col. CARTWRIGHT DSO, Capt. GOLDSMITH, Capt. JONES, Capt. PEARSON MC, 2/Lt. ATKINSON, 2/Lt. EVANS, 2/Lt. ROBERTS, 2/Lt. KENNY, 2/Lt. MARSH missing. Lt. LION, Lt. PLATTS, 2/Lt. ROE, LLEWELYN & HOLMES missing."

1st Battalion sustained devastating casualties that night. On exiting the trenches, they found the German barbed wire all but uncut and were enfiladed by machine guns. Such was the chaotic aftermath that official



Frank Sydney Marsh

figures are unreliable. Recent research by author Kyle Tallett suggests the Battalion lost 6 Officers with 7 wounded, 3 of whom died later, and 1 captured. 157 other ranks were killed in action, 153 wounded, 3 of them died later, and 27 captured. They had lost about 30 men, mainly killed, just two days earlier.

Frank had been appointed vice captain of Dulwich St Barnabas for the ill-fated 1914/15 season. His parents lived at 22, Maryland Road in Thornton Heath however Frank was born in Camberwell and attended Alleyn's school until 1909.

Gilbert Furmage Chignall.

Date of death: 7th June 1917.

Rank & Unit: Lance Corporal. 1st/23rd (County of London) Battalion.

Buried: No known grave. Honoured on the Menin Gate memorial.

Gilbert was born in Bromley but resident in Dulwich Village by the age of 3, and living in East Dulwich at enlistment. He enlisted in Putney. Gilbert was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Messines a prelude to the Battle of Passchendaele. Messines was an attempt to seize the tactically important Messines Ridge and commenced with the British blowing 19 mines. It is estimated this alone killed 10,000 Germans. Messines was one of the most successful Allied attacks of the war, the decision to halt and not press on – which caused disagreement amongst senior officers – remains controversial to this day. Gilbert is known to have also served with the City of London Yeomanry (Roughriders.)

Born in 1898, Gilbert was one of the youngest Hamlet men to die. He appears in the 1911 census as a 13-year-old scholar living at 54, Dekker Road, Dulwich living with his parents, brother and sister.

1st/23rd were based at 27, St John's Hill, Clapham Junction in August 1914. On mobilisation they moved to the St Albans area before landing at Le Havre on 16th March 1915. Gilbert's service number suggests that he did not enlist until around September 1916, meaning he may have been conscripted. The Roughriders were a territorial force and at the outbreak of war split into 1st Line, those liable for overseas service, and 2nd Line, those unable or unwilling to serve abroad. Territorials were only bound to fight in the United Kingdom so had to volunteer to serve

abroad. On the day Gilbert died they were involved in an attack on the Ypres-Comines Canal.

Like many others who feature in this booklet, G. Chignall appears on the Dulwich Hamlet Junior school war memorial. The name Furnage frequently appears within his family tree.

Edgar Laurence Bescoby. (Eddie.)

Date of death: 18th June 1917. Age: 25.

Rank & Unit: 2nd Lieutenant. 12th Bn. Royal Fusiliers.

Buried: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

Erroneously listed on the first Dulwich Hamlet war memorial as Edward Bescoby, a second war memorial correctly listing him as Edgar was unveiled on 11th November 2005 after research undertaken by Hamlet Historian magazine.

Eddie was born in Guestling, near Hastings and appears to take his middle name from the village church. His father, Harry was both the local schoolteacher and village worthy.

In 1910-11 Eddie can be found playing in a pre-season match for Rock-A-Nore FC. In 1912 Rock-A-Nore were runners up in the Eastbourne & District League, he can also be found playing cricket in Sussex.

Eddie came to London to study at the University of London. By 1913 he was living at 93, Talbot Road, Westbourne Park and working as a civil servant. Despite living close to Shepherd's Bush F.C he chose to play for Dulwich Hamlet. Some contemporary sources suggest he played in the Surrey Senior Cup in 1912/13 but we can only positively identify him as playing for the club in 1913/14. His partner at half back was George. Popple, who also died in the war. Eddie won a London Charity Cup runners up medal, a fixture backlog probably cost him an Isthmian League title. He made 33 appearances that season.

Eddie enlisted in the 3rd County of London Yeomanry (The Sharpshooters) on 23rd May 1913. Embodied into the Sharpshooters on 5th August 1914 he was one of the first Hamlet men to sign up but was left in England when the majority of battalion went to Egypt and then Gallipoli. It is clear Eddie was unhappy at being left behind and



Edgar Laurence Bescoby - Eddie

actively tried to get to the front. Like many territorial soldiers Eddie was in the annual camp when the war started, explaining the speed with which things moved.

Eddie went to Norfolk and passed a very uneventful period. On 9th August 1916 Eddie filled in form MT393A, applying for admission to an Officer Cadet Unit. At the time he was working in a government laboratory and had to get his bosses permission. Such was his enthusiasm to see action Eddie basically told the government he would serve in any branch of the army they saw fit. Eddie undertook his officer training at Lichfield, at the same time as fellow Hamlet casualty Frank Marsh. On 26th March 1917 Eddie was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant by the Royal Fusiliers, transferring out of the Yeomanry after 3 years, 308 days service.

On 12th April 1917 he embarked for France, probably replacing a victim of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Eddie arrived at the front line five days later just as the Battalion commenced a long period away from the front, though he probably undertook reconnaissance work in late April. Eddie finally saw action at the Battle of Messines. On June 14th, the last day of the battle, he was part of an attack that saw all objectives met with 28 prisoners taken and a machine gun captured. The attack saw brutal hand to hand fighting with bayonets drawn. Eddie sustained a wound to the lower abdomen and was sent to the 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. It is clear the wound was serious, Eddie wasn't moved back to the hospitals and died at the Casualty Clearing Station on the 18th.

A fuller account of the life of Eddie Bescoby can be found in Hamlet Historian issue seventeen. Note the history of football in Hasting is the cause of much debate. Some believe that Rock-A-Nore are part of the modern-day Isthmian Leaguers Hastings United. Others believe this is an erroneous reading of the situation. Rock-A-Nore were nicknamed 'the Tanfrocks' after the traditional local fisherman's clothes, as well as the more obvious 'the Rocks.' One of the first newspaper reports we have found on Dulwich outside of London comes from the Hastings & St Leonards Observer dated 11th April 1896, which reported Rock-A-Nore had drawn 0-0 with "*Dulwich Hamlets*" on Easter Monday morning. The Tanfrocks had a busy day as in the afternoon they played Folkestone Invicta. (Not the current Folkestone Invicta club.) They wrapped the day up with a smoker at their HQ, the Harbour Bar. The locals were probably more interested in the Hastings v Sheffield game a few days earlier. Sheffield brought at least one international and were hailed as the best

team ever seen in Hastings. Could a young Eddie perhaps have been in the crowd that day? That may explain why he chose to travel across London to represent Hamlet.

Ernest William Dearne Astill.

Date of death: 30th March 1918.

Rank & Unit: 2nd Lieutenant. 2nd/9th Bn. (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria Rifles.)

Buried: No known grave. Remembered on the Pozieres memorial, the Somme.

The older of the two cricketing Astill's to die. Ernest was born in Brixton in 1891 but pre-war was living with his parents and siblings at Woodstock Road in Carshalton. Ernest was employed as a ledger clerk at E.D. Sassoon & Co. Ernest enlisted on 1st August 1914. He landed in France on 10th May 1915. Serving as an 'Other Rank' he was wounded on the opening day of the Somme – the very day his brother was killed - and returned home to recuperate suffering from shellshock. He recovered in time to be commissioned on 1st August 1917.

Ernest died during a huge make or break German offensive that nearly won the war. It seems likely that he was serving with Carey's force at the time of his death. This was a group of about 3000 'spare' men thrown into action when the German St Michael's attack threatened to take Amiens in March 1918, this would probably have ended the war such was Amiens importance to the Allies as a transport centre. When transferred Ernest was serving with III Corps Training School. Carey's Force disbanded the day after Ernest's death was recorded, with men returning to their regular units. Note that there is doubt about the exact date of death. His records are marked up that death probably occurred on the 30th.

2nd/9th Bn. Was a territorial force established in 1914 to replace the territorial forces going to the theatres of war. As was often the case they received poor kit, not getting Lee Enfield 303 rifles or quick-fire artillery weapons and it was early 1917 before they arrived on the front meaning Ernest must have transferred in from another battalion or regiment, probably after being commissioned.

It is indicative of the stalemate on the Western Front that Pozieres is very close to the targets the Allies were trying to capture in July 1916 when Tom Rose was fatally wounded.

Note some sources cite his name as Ernest William Dennis Richard Astill, which seems to be correct, however the policy of this article is to follow the CWGC record as this is the official war record, unless that record can be proven to be wrong. CWGC records him using the name Dearne not Dennis. Like his brother, Ernest appears on the Dulwich Hamlet Junior school war memorial.

John Harold Chance Butler. (Jack.)

Date of death: 6th August 1918. Age : 27.

Rank & Unit: Sergeant. 237 Siege Battery. Royal Garrison Artillery.

Buried: Terlincthun Cemetery

Jack was born in Lambeth in 1891. In 1901 he lived with his parents, siblings and a servant at Flodden Road in Lambeth. Ten years later he is still living with his parents, at 157 Croxteth Road. His father was working as a mechanical engineer but later became a noted sports journalist, including editing The Referee. Jack returned on leave to marry Adelaide Sutton in 1917; the pair lived at 112 Palace Road, Tulse Hill.

Jack enlisted at Herne Bay in September 1914. Prior to his death he recovered from wounds sustained at Longueval. He died at 53rd General Hospital due to complications sustained after an operation due to appendicitis. Adelaide subsequently received a payment of £21 19s 3d on December 14th 1918 and £20 10s on December 6th 1919.

In July 1913 a J. Butler opened the batting for Dulwich Hamlet Cricket Club in their home victory over Streatham Albion. Fellow World War One casualties the Astill brothers also featured that day. All three are remembered on Hamlet's war memorial. The Astill's are only known to us as cricketers, we haven't traced them representing the club at football.

Sidney Herbert Beales.

Date of death: 25th August 1918. Age: 34.

Rank & Unit: Private. 1st/13th (County of London) Princess Louise's Kensington Battalion.

Buried: No known grave. Remembered at the Vis-en-Artois memorial.

The 1919/20 Dulwich Hamlet handbook lists the 22 deceased players though the introductory text refers to 21. When the text was written Sidney was officially posted as missing in action, clearly it was hoped he may yet be found alive. Sadly, it wasn't to be.

Sidney was born in Camberwell and appears in the 1901 census as a 17-year-old clerk living with his parents, four siblings and a servant at 52a, Crystal Palace Road in Camberwell. He was also there ten years later, still listed as a clerk. Sidney's parents had moved to Twickenham by the time of his death. Florence, his widow, lived at 35 Friern Road, Dulwich.

Whilst not featuring in 1913/14 Sidney had been a first teamer in the past, as had his older brother Percy. The 1919 handbook lists him as serving in the Queen Victoria Rifles, suggesting he may have moved between battalions. His service number suggests Sidney enlisted in late 1915 at the earliest.

Records show that Sidney spent three spells at the front, 4th October 1916 – 28th February 1917, 16th June 1917 to 23rd November 1917 and 6th April 1918 until his death. All three spells were spent in France and Belgium. He doesn't appear in the Silver War Badge records however the most likely reason for his spells in Britain is recuperation from wounds.

When Sidney went missing his battalion were involved in the British advance that would end the war. On the 24th they arrived at Blaireville, where one Other Rank was wounded by an enemy airplane. The day Sidney died they marched to occupy an old position south of Boyelles, during the day they came under raking enemy machine gun fire.

Robert Charles Lawrence D.C.M.

Date of death: 19th October 1918. Age: 29.

Rank & Unit: Sergeant. 231st Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Buried: Vadencourt British Cemetery. Maissemy.

The penultimate Hamlet man to die in the war was the brother of the first casualty. Robert seems to have enlisted after three of his brothers – at least two of them were territorial soldiers pre-war. He is also the only one of our dead known to have been awarded a bravery medal, others were won by survivors. The Distinguished Conduct Medal was second only to the Victoria Cross for Non-Commissioned personnel. His D.C.M was gazetted on 14th September 1915 with the citation reading: -

“For conspicuous gallantry during the attack on Hooze on 9th August 1915. He kept up communications with the Firing Line during heavy shell fire and when the wires were cut he continued to keep touch by flag, signalling in a very exposed position.”

When Robert died his battery were billeted behind the lines at Fresnoy Le Grand, based at a large hall. Two shells struck the billets, killing three men and wounding twenty more.

Born at Dulwich in 1889, in 1901 Robert was at school and living with his family at 114, Rosendale Road in Dulwich. He is at the same address ten years later but employed as a chauffeur. Like his brother Walter, Robert appears on the Dulwich Hamlet Junior school war memorial.

Percy Sills.

Date of death: 6th November 1918. Age: 30.

Rank & Unit: Lance Corporal. Labour Corps.

Buried: Scartho Road Cemetery, Grimsby.

The last Hamlet man to die in the war, like the first, is buried in England. Born in 1888, the 13-year-old Percy can be found living at 269 Crystal Palace Road, Dulwich in the 1901 census. The 1911 census reveals a 23-year-old compositor of this name living as a boarder at 154, Rosendale

Road. Percy appears in the London Society of Compositors WW1 Roll of Honour and their list of members serving which was printed in 1916.



Percy was born in and lived in Dulwich; he enlisted in Camberwell. Percy served in the Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment) before transferring to the 506th Home Service Employment Company. He doesn't seem to have served abroad but may have been involved in action in Dublin, the Sherwood Foresters were involved in the aftermath of the Easter uprising. The Labour Corps was often used to house men who were unfit for active service due to injury or illness. The fact Percy transferred in from the Sherwood's suggests this may apply to him.

Sadly, Percy's death was controversial; Hansard records a written question in the House of Commons on November 18th

1918. Mr. King MP asked the Under Secretary of War whether he was aware that: -

"Lance-Corporal Percy Sills, No. 165174, a telephonist in the 506th Home-Service Employment Company at Grimsby, was billeted at the Methodist church schools, Flottergate, Grimsby, when on 29th October last he reported sick with influenza, that he reported daily sick till on 2nd November he was first seen by the doctor, and that he died of pneumonia on 6th November, and that his friends, on being summoned to his death-bed, and after his funeral, were pressed to say that they were satisfied that everything had been done, but refused to do so; and whether he will make inquiries into the matter?"

The Under Secretary replied that he was aware of the issue and would report back. No reply has been found.

Note that Percy is commemorated on his grave as a member of the Notts & Derby Regiment not the Labour Corps. This was standard British policy.

Tom McConnell



Tom McConnell does not appear on the Hamlet war memorial; correctly given he never represented the club. However, it is appropriate to pay tribute to him here. Tom made such an impression on Dulwich Hamlet they chose to pay tribute to him in the 1919 Club Handbook. Tom is third from left in the front row of the Dumbarton team, with his surname slightly mis-spelt.

1915/16 saw Dulwich not to field a team, bar one match in December versus 3rd Bn. Scots Guards. The soldiers were in training at Caterham. Hamlet decided to only play men on war duty. Nearly everyone associated with the club was, or had been, on war duty. War work and geographical location of playing members saw Dulwich struggle to name an XI. With the match in doubt, Scots Guards agreed to provide players to Hamlet to make up numbers. Post war Hamlet noted many of the Guard's team that day did not survive the war. It proved to be the last known Hamlet game for war casualty Frank Hagger. Pa noted the team consisted of ten soldiers and a sailor; Frank was the sailor. The match, reported by The Sportsman, saw the Guard's win 2-1. The pitch was in a poor condition after several days of rain. The match was also played in a gale. Guards had most of the play and scored a couple of goals, largely due to good work by McConnell and Libberton. Bill Davis scored for the Hamlet, after a cross by Kirk.

Dulwich Hamlet: Gunner W.R. Beardwell, Sergeant Major Morent, F.W. Hagger, Gunner A.R. Beardwell, Sergeant Clarkson, Lieutenant Kirk, Gunner Haywood, Corporal Davis, Goddard, "A Scot", "B Scot"
 Scots Guards: Private D. Pitt, Lance-Corporal M. Diver, Private J. Thomas, Private J. Findlay, Private A. Leishman, Private G. Dickie, Private A.

Cunningham, Private J. Libberton, Private T. McConnell, Private Sloan, Private W. Gregson.

The rest of 1915/16 saw Hamlet loan Champion Hill to military teams, collections were taken from spectators for war related charities. Hamlet had done a war time deal with the Army allowing Hamlet to use the ground at weekends. Failure to do so could lead to further questions about why the Army couldn't have the location full time. In the war seasons Hamlet did play, it wasn't unknown for visiting teams bear a resemblance to a Hamlet second or youth team, ensuring matches went ahead when visitors were shorthanded due to war work requirements.

3rd Bn. Scots Guards became a familiar sight at the Hill throughout the 1915/16 season, they regularly borrowed the ground to host matches. The Guards were good; their standout player was Private Thomas McConnell. He scored 76 of the 123 goals they scored that season, many at the Hill. Match reports suggest Libberton scored many of the remaining goals. In February 1916 the Guards defeated the Artist's Rifles 3-0 at Queen's Club. Tom scored two, Libberton the third. The Guards became a big enough draw to play home games at both Highbury and Upton Park. 3rd Bn. Scots Guards full record for 1915/16 was Played 45 Won 30 Drew 5 Lost 10 For 121 Against 60.

Tom, a native of Ayrshire, played for Dumbarton in the Scottish First Division in 1913/14 signing from Irvine & District League outfit Ardrossan Winton Rovers. Ardrossan ran a special train to an Irvine District Cup match at Kilbirnie Ladeside in October 1912, losing 1-0. The following month saw the Rovers open a substantial stand. 600 spectators sat in the stand to watch a Scottish Cup match; Rovers drew 3-3 with Ardeer Thistle.

Tom made his Dumbarton debut home to Queen's Park on August 16th 1913. After a promising start, Tom vanished from The Sons team, his final game was home to Dundee on March 7th 1914. Tom scored 6 goals in 28 games for Dumbarton, who finished 19th in a 20-team league. Tom seems not to have secured a new contract. Dumbarton held his League Registration, enabling them to claim a fee from any League team he signed for.

Tom started 1914/15 with Scottish Reserve League outfit Galston, they subsequently joined the Scottish League. Tom seems to have been successful there, he was picked up by First Division Airdrieonians. Given

Dumbarton held his League registration Tom was officially loaned to Airdrieonians by Dumbarton. This appears to have been an unsuccessful trial. Airdrieonians finished the season in eleventh position, despite their chairman walking out due to his opposition to football being played during the war.

On May 15th 1915 Tom enlisted in the Scots Guards at Ayr, declaring he lived at Newmilns and worked as a lace weaver. Three days later he arrived at Guard's Depot, Caterham, for training. Guard's Depot was well known to the Hamlet. In the days when the football club played one pre-season match, a trip to Guard's Depot was often the chosen fixture. In the run up to the war in summer 1914, Edgar Kail was scoring at Guard's Depot for Dulwich Hamlet Cricket Club when the opposition walked off to start preparing for departure to war. The football teams 1914 pre-season match was cancelled, the opposition were already in France. The military always looked after visiting teams, there are newspaper reports of well refreshed Hamlet teams having to dash for the last train home following matches at Caterham.

After transferring to 2nd Bn. Scots Guards, Tom entered France on August 9th 1916. He died of wounds at XIV Corps Main Dressing Station on September 26th. Tom was probably wounded during an attack on Les Boeufs the previous day. The other man picked out as impressing at Champion Hill was probably James Libberton. Sergeant James Libberton of 2nd Bn. Scots Guards died on September 12th 1916. A player called Libberton can be found playing for Junior sides Weymss Athletic, Musselburgh Athletic and Tranent Juniors pre-war. The latter still survive and use pink for their second kit. Weymss Athletic appear to have ceased to exist, Musselburgh Athletic exist but are a new club, founded in 1934.

Edgar Kail is known to have been one of the group of youths kept busy maintaining Champion Hill at the time Tom graced it so successfully. Given his goalscoring exploits it seems likely Edgar would have paid real attention to Tom, looking to learn from him. Thus opening the possibility Dulwich Hamlet owes a lot to a man now largely forgotten by the clubs he served. Work researching this article was shared with Airdrieonians, who now recognise Tom was one of their war casualties. Previously he had been missed off the list.

Sources: Arnold, Andrew 'Their names live for ever more. Carshalton's First World War Roll of Honour', Backhouse, Tim, Dulwich College Roll of Honour, Hamlet Historian – various editions, Hansard, Hounslow, E.J. 'Fighting for the Bucks The history of the Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars 1914 - 1918', Knight, Jill 'The Civil Service Rifles in the Great War', London Society of Compositors WW1 Roll of Honour, Maude, Alan 'The 47th (London) Division 1914 - 1919, Maurice, Frederick 'The History of the London Rifle Brigade 1859 - 1919', National Union of Teachers WW1 Roll of Honour, Sadden, John, Soldiers Died in the Great War, South London Observer, South London Press, Ward, Fred 'The 23rd (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers. A record of its services in the Great War 1914 - 1919, www.1914-1918.net, www.britishnewspaperarchive.com, www.carshaltonwarmemorial.web.com, www.medalblog.blogspot.co.uk, www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk, www.scarthoroadcemetery.weebly.com www.nationalarchives.gov.uk, Wyman & Sons 'The History of the Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles.'

All source and acknowledgements cited in the Hamlet Historian 2005 World War One issue and articles on Billy Millward, Eddie Bescoby and Tom Rose apply.

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Credit: Michael Walker. When I first discussed re-writing the 2005 article with Jack McInroy in early 2015, after realising Archibald was erroneously remembered on the war memorial, he informed me Michael had flagged up the online article about Archibald John Andrews to him a few months earlier. No one quite realised the significance of his discovery, that the Dulwich Hamlet war memorial contained another error.



This image shows the Dulwich Hamlet party during their 1914 Easter tour to Germany. Those present include four men killed during World War One, Eddie Bescoby, Frank Hagger, George Popple and Willie Clarkson. The touring party also included Claude Lawrence, who would lose two brothers during the war.

The 1913 Dulwich Hamlet Easter tour party, which visited the Netherlands, contained Charles Train. Known us only as a "*friend*" of Dulwich Hamlet Train won the Victoria Cross and survived the war. The image shows him being presented with his medal by King George V at Blendecques on August 6th 1918.

