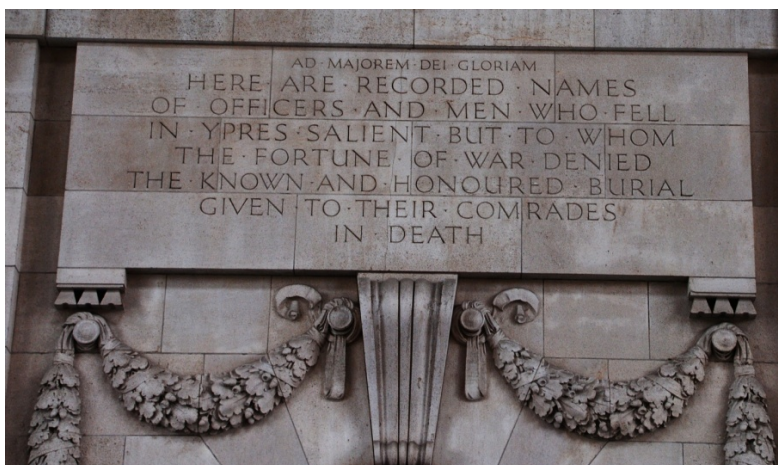


Memorials to the Missing

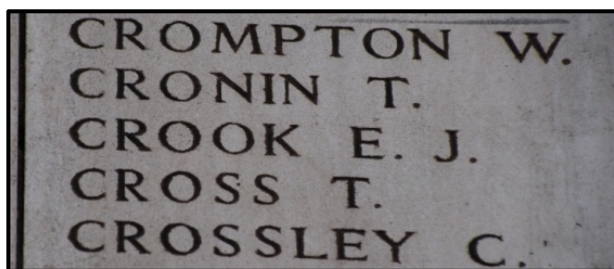
The Menin Gate, Ypres



The Menin Gate was constructed across the road along which thousands of troops marched to the Front. It commemorates nearly 55,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient between October 1914 and August 1917 and have no known grave. It was designed by Reginald Blomfield and unveiled by Field Marshall Lord Plumer in July 1927, who stated: *"He is not missing, he is here."*

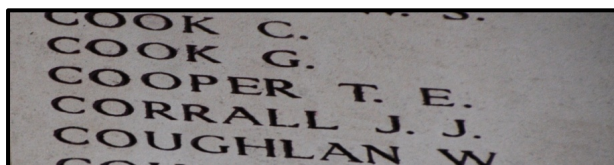


Five of the Amersham soldiers are commemorated on the **Menin Gate Memorial** and the engravings of their names have been photographed in 2014.
(by Hazel Garas)



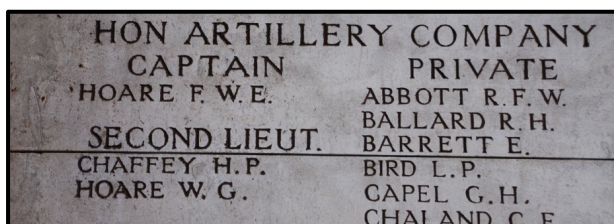
CROOK, Edward James

Pte 3rd Btn Royal Fusiliers – Panel 6 & 8. He died on 14 February 1915, aged 21.



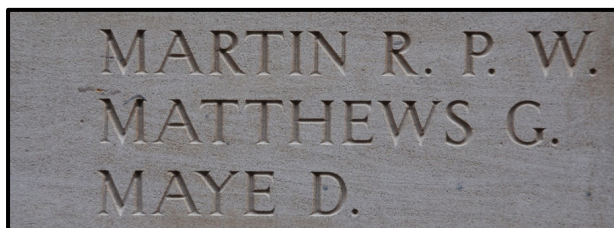
COOPER, Thomas Edward

Pte, Machine Gun Corps – Panel 56 (High on the panel). He died on 31 July 1917, aged 19.



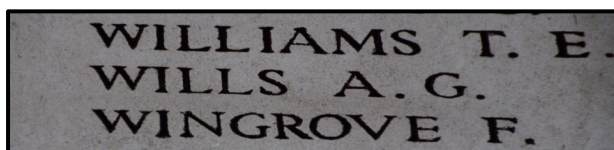
HOARE, William George

2nd Lt. Honourable Artillery Company – Panel 9. He died on 16 June 1915, aged 29.



MATTHEWS, George Thomas

Pte Australian Infantry – Panel 7- 17- 23- 27- 29-31. He died on 26 September 1917, aged 32. The Australian Soldiers are commemorated on the panels surrounding one of the staircases.



WINGROVE, Ernest

L/Cpl London Regiment, Post Office Rifles - Panel 54. He died on 20 September 1917, aged 23.

(The only Wingrove on the panel 54 that could be found is F. Wingrove. This name belongs to **Frederick Wingrove**, also from the London Regiment, who lived in Penn Street and is commemorated on the memorial there.)



'The Last Post' at the Menin Gate

Each evening at 8.00 pm the Last Post is sounded by members of the Ypres Fire Brigade in memory of all the British and Commonwealth soldiers who died at Ypres between 1914 and 1918. The ceremony dates back to 1928, and the only time it was interrupted was during the years of the Nazi Occupation of Belgium 1940-44.

The Chiltern U3A attended the ceremony in May 2010 and Vic Faulkner laid a wreath on behalf of the members. The ceremony is usually attended by large crowds.



The Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium

The Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest British war cemetery in the world. Tyne Cot contains a total of 11,953 burials, mostly of British and Commonwealth troops, but also containing four German soldiers. The majority of men buried here were killed during the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917. The name Tyne Cot is thought to have British origins. According to a local story, the Northumberland Fusiliers thought a barn on the ridgeline looked like their cottages on the River Tyne back home.

The curved **Memorial to the Missing** lies around the back of the cemetery and lists the names of 35,000 soldiers with no known grave. A large proportion of the graves in the cemetery are dedicated to "A SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR".

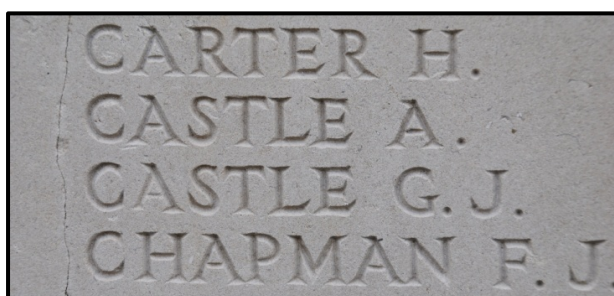
"We can only say that the whole circuit of the earth is girdled with the graves of our dead. In the course of my pilgrimage, I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon earth through the years to come, than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the devastation of war."

King George V, Tyne Cot Cemetery, 11 May 1922.



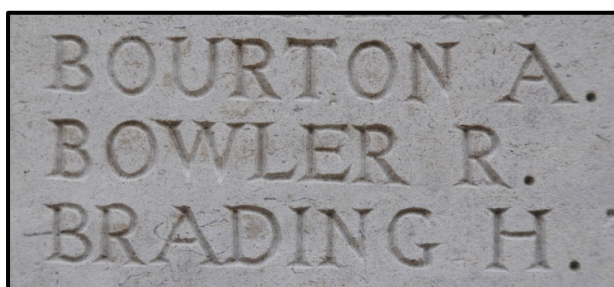
The Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing sweeps in a great arc around the rear of the cemetery. Names of the soldiers are engraved on Panels of Portland Stone set in the wall.

Two of our Amersham Soldiers are commemorated on the Memorial.



CASTLE, George Joseph

Pte, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. – Panel 96-98. He died on 22 August 1917.



BOWLER, Raymond

Rifleman 1st Btn, Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Panel 115-119 situated in the South Rotunda. He died on 2 December 1917, aged 23.

Note: The South Rotunda is a circular enclave behind the main Memorial wall, accessed through the columns.

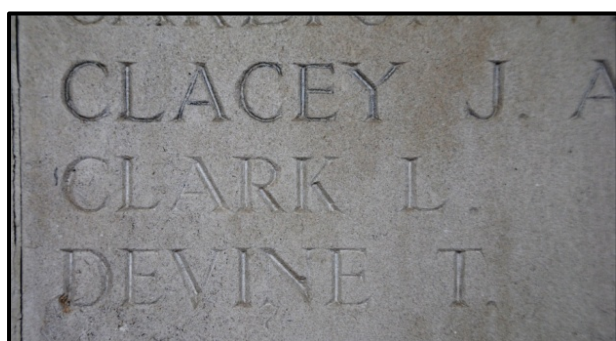
The Arras Memorial to the Missing
next to the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, France.



The Arras Memorial commemorates 34,734 soldiers from Britain, South Africa and New Zealand who fell in the Arras area from the spring of 1916, when the British troops first arrived, until 7 August 1918, and who have no known grave. Most of the dead are from the April-May **Battle of Arras** or are those who died in the March 1918 operations. A separate section of the Memorial, the Arras Flying Services Memorial commemorates more than a thousand airmen of the Royal Naval Air Force, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force, who were shot down along the whole Western Front, including Belgium, and who have no known grave. The memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick.

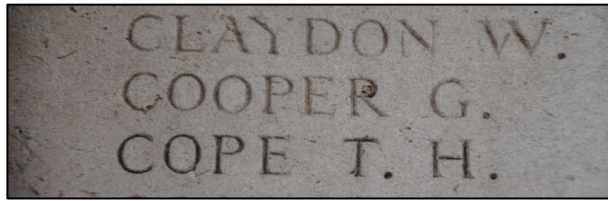
Arras has one of the highest proportions of missing for any British sector of the Western Front.

Five of our Amersham soldiers are commemorated on the Memorial, mostly on bays 6 & 7, which are found on either side of the entrance archway at the back. Unfortunately, the engravings have suffered water damage from the leaking roof, and some are illegible as a result.



CLARK, Leonard

Lance Corpl, 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment, (Bay 7). He died on 29 April 1917, aged 31.



COOPER, George

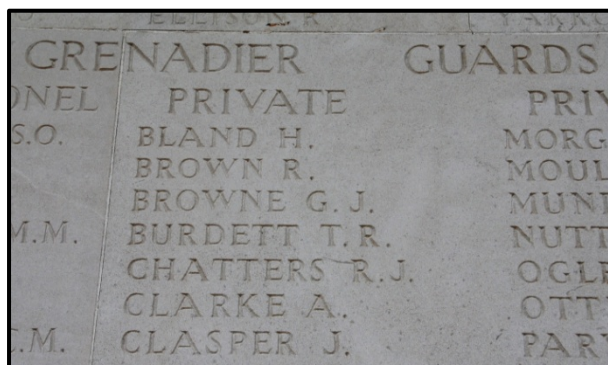
Pte, 5th Btn, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. (Bay 6 & 7) He died on 3 May 1917.



HARRIS, Mark

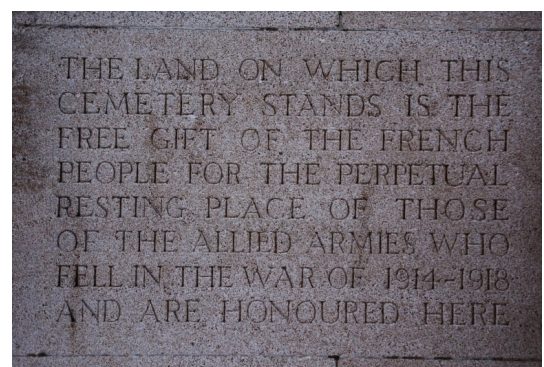
Pte, 1st Btn, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. (Bay 6). He died on 8 May 1917, aged 19.

Also commemorated on the memorial on Bay 6, is **HEARN, Frederick Joseph**, a Corporal in the 1st Btn the East Lancashire Regiment. He died on 21 March 1918, aged 24. The engraving of his name was too faint to photograph.



CLARKE, Albert Victor

is commemorated on Bay 1, which is at the end of a separate wing of the Arras Memorial. He was a Guardsman in the Grenadier Guards and died on 23 March 1918, aged 20.



Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Somme, France



The photograph shows the view of the **Thiepval Memorial** which stands adjacent to the Anglo-French cemetery, (hence the French and the Union flag on top of the memorial.)

The Thiepval Memorial was constructed in the grounds of the long-demolished chateau, which existed before the war, and which employed large numbers of local villagers. The Memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, but was not completed until 1932, and was unveiled by the Prince of Wales. It stands on the top of the Thiepval Ridge and can be seen for miles around.

The Thiepval Memorial commemorates more than 72,000 officers and men who have no known grave: Army, Royal Naval Division and South African. Every regiment and corps of the British army is represented here. They died on the Somme Battlefields between July 1916 and 20 March 1918. A high proportion of the names on the Thiepval Memorial are soldiers who died on 1 July 1916 – the first day of the **Battle of the Somme**. The largest number of names from one regiment is the London Regiment with some 4,348 soldiers.

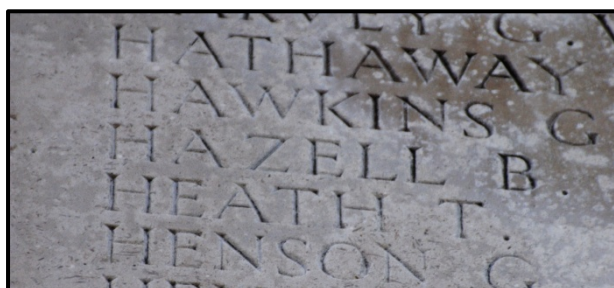


Ten of our Amersham soldiers are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, nine of whom died between 30 July 1916 and 18 November 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. Lance/Corporal Harry Mitchell was the exception and he died on 3 April 1917.

The Memorial has sixteen piers, with four faces on each, on which are engraved the names of the missing, listed under their regiments.

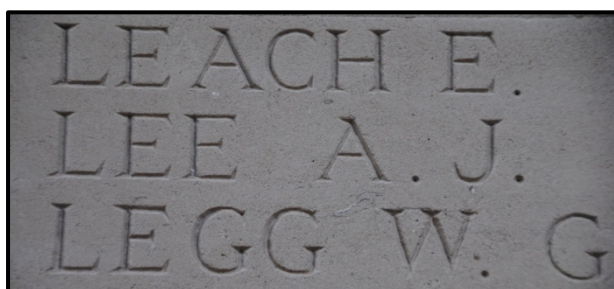
The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Commemorated on Pier and Face 10A & 10D



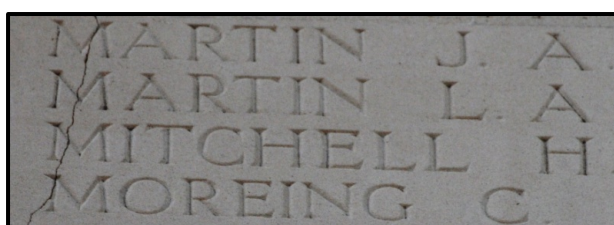
HAZELL, Bert

Pte, 2nd Battalion, died 30 July 1916, aged 18.



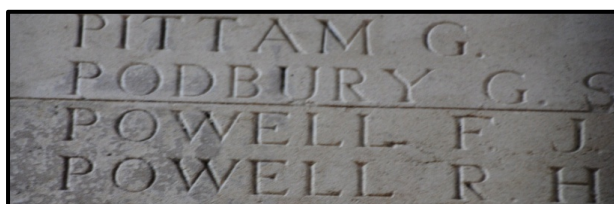
LEE, Alfred James

Pte, 2nd Battalion, died 30 July 1916, aged 20.



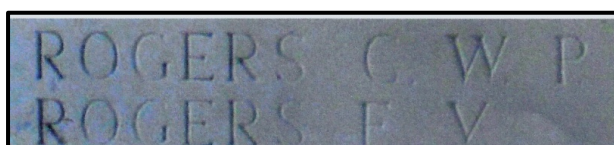
MITCHELL, Harry

Lance/Corporal, died 3 April 1917, aged 37.



PODBURY, George Stephenson

Pte, 6th Battalion, died 6 September 1916, aged 26.



ROGERS, Frederick Victor

Pte, 5th Battalion, died 28 August 1916.

Hampshire Regiment

Commemorated on Pier and Face 7c

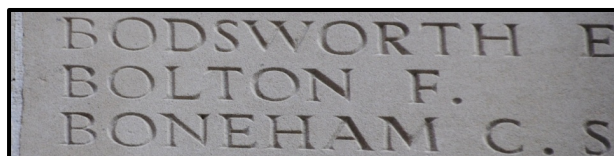


ATKINS, Charles William

Pte, 2nd Battalion, died 12 October 1916, aged 37.

Bedfordshire Regiment

Commemorated on Panel 11A & 11D

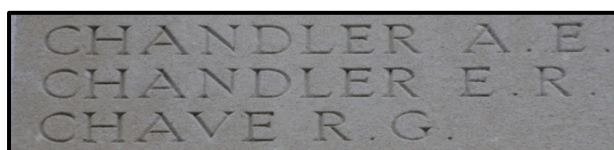


BOLTON, Francis

Pte, 1st Battalion, died 31 July 1916, aged 39.

London Regiment (Prince of Wales own Civil Service Reg.)

Commemorated on Pier and Face 13C

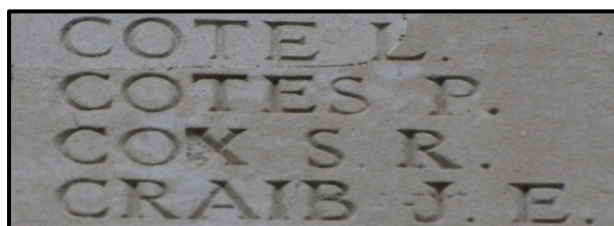


CHANDLER, Edgar Richard

Pte, 15th Battalion, died 15 September 1916, aged 20.

Royal Fusiliers

Commemorated on Pier and Face 16A



COX, Stanley Robert

Corporal, 10th Battalion, Died 18 November 1916, aged 22.

Northamptonshire Regiment

Commemorated on Panel 11A & 11D

WARREN, Frederick Hubert

Private, 1st Battalion, Died 27 September 1916.



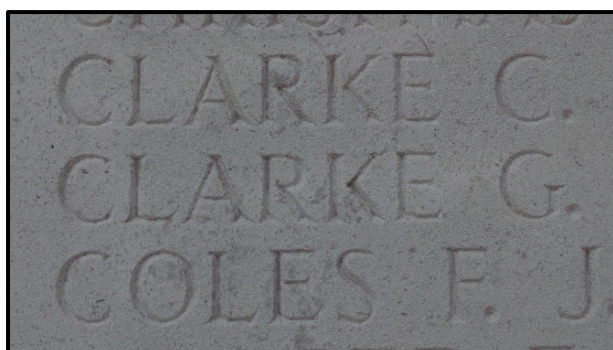
The Pozières Memorial



The Pozières Memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory which began on 8 August 1918. The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the U.K. and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918.

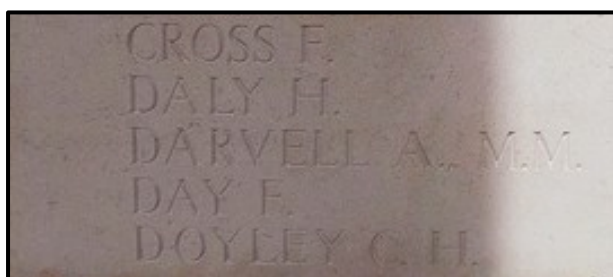
(The photographs were taken by the historian Paul Reed in October 2014 and he kindly gave permission for their inclusion here)

Two of our Amersham soldiers are commemorated on the Pozières Memorial.



CLARKE, Geoffrey

4th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment,
B Company, died on 25 May 1918,
aged 19, Panel 28 & 29.



DARVELL, Arthur MM

5th Battalion, Oxfordshire and
Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, died
on 23 March 1918, aged 35, Panel 50
& 51.

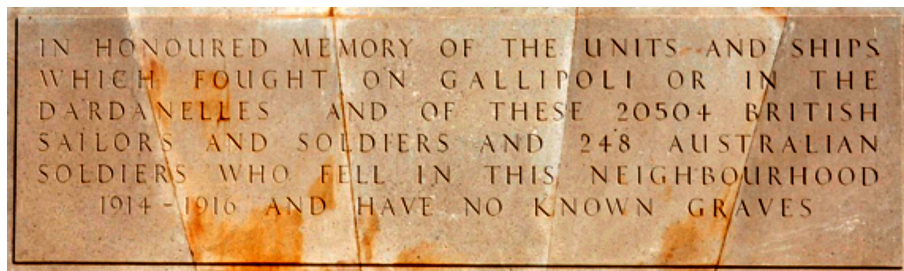
The Helles Memorial – Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey



The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Empire and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock on the Western Front in France and Belgium and to open a supply route to Russia via the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.

As a result of Turkish resistance and difficult terrain, the campaign was unsuccessful and, after enormous casualties, the peninsula was evacuated in December 1915 and early 1916.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Empire battle memorial for the whole of the Gallipoli campaign and a place of commemoration for those Empire servicemen who died there and have no known grave. **Bertram Alfred Bizzell** of Drake Battalion, Royal Naval Division, is commemorated on the memorial, and his name is one of 20, 878.



(These two photographs courtesy of Chalmers Cursley)

Below: A view of the Helles Memorial at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, from the Dardanelles



A Grave of an Unknown Soldier

This grave was photographed in the Tyne Cot cemetery, of a soldier who died at Passchendaele. There are hundreds of such graves in cemeteries across Northern France and Belgium.



Known unto God

"It is too late now to retrieve
A fallen dream
Too late to grieve
A name unmade but not too late
to thank the gods for what is great
A keen-edged sword
A soldier's heart is greater than a poet's art
and greater than a poet's fame
A LITTLE GRAVE
THAT HAS NO NAME"

(A poem written by Francis Ledwidge, 5th Inniskilling Fusiliers and found on a tablet adjacent to the Irish Peace Tower on the Messines Ridge)