

## BIDMEAD Harold

<b>Born</b>	September 1895 in Croydon
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Killed in action on September 8th 1918 age 23
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in Arneke British Cemetery, Nord, France
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	VIII A 24
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 47030
<b>Unit</b>	Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers, formerly 12134 Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton Memorial

Harold's origins are not at all clear The only child of that name born in that period was as is shown above although on census he was said to have been born in London. The purchase of his birth certificate might prove matters. He was certainly taken in by the Bassett family although stated to be a boarder & not a foster child or similar. In the 1901 census he is called Harold French but with the same year & place of birth. In the 1911 he is Harold Bidmead. James Bassett was born in 1859 & was born in Middle Barton. He was a grocer's porter or assistant grocer. His wife was Annie nee Nicholls also born in Middle Barton in 1866. They married in December 1882. In 1901 they had Henry born in 1888, Mabel in 1893 & Elsie in 1895 together with Harold living in Worten Road. In 1911 Annie said she had been married for 27 years & had only had three of the six children born to her still living. Harold was then working as a Gardener boy, domestic , Henry a jobbing gardener & Mabel as a nurse. Harold was always known by the name of Bidmead in Army records. They also said he was killed in action unlike the panel in the church which says he died of wounds. I noticed on Medal Roll Cards that three other men from the Ox & Bucks Light infantry were transferred to the Iniskilling Fusiliers on the same day with consecutive numbers. This was possibly because their unit had been decimated so they were joined up with another unit. I also noticed that he , Frederick Carpenter & William Keen all entered France on the same day, July 22nd 1915. His Army number was only 23 different from Frederick's.

Arneke British Cemetery, note the two French graves with the British ones.



## CARPENTER Frederick

<b>Born</b>	June 1895 in Middle Barton
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Killed in action on September 3rd 1916 age 21
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	Pier & face 10A & D
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 12111
<b>Unit</b>	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton Memorial

Frederick was a son of John Carpenter a farm labourer born in Ledwell, Oxfordshire in 1866 & Ruth nee Stockford born in Dun's Tew in 1870 .In the 1891 census John & Ruth were living in South Newington with sons George William born 1888 in Middle Barton & John Henry just 3 months old born in Newington. Ruth died in September 1900 age just 30.In 1901 we find the four younger children in the Woodstock Union workhouse, Hensington House. They were Florence Ruth born in 1893, Frederick in 1895, Thomas Frank in 1897 & Alice Rose in 1899. Their father was living with his two elder sons in Mill Street, Middle Barton. Clearly he could not care for 4 small children & work himself. Happily by 1911 he was living in South Street with the four youngest, Ruth was said to be a housemaid, Frederick an under carter, Frank a plough boy & Alice was at school.

Frederick of course enlisted at the same time as William Keen & was killed on the same day. They entered France on July 22nd 1915. Frederick's service records do not appear to have survived.

You can see how enormous the Thiepval Memorial is and how high the names are listed on the white panels by judging it against the people standing there.



## CASTLE Horace Vawn

Horace's headstone at Wulverghem.



<b>Born</b>	March 1898 in Middle Barton
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Killed in action on September 8th 1918 age 20
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in Wulverghem Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	V B 17
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 132757
<b>Unit</b>	36th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) formerly 203417 Royal Berkshire Regiment
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton Memorial

Horace was the youngest child of Moses Castle variously a coachbuilder, wheelwright or carpenter born in Ledwell in 1855 and Annie nee Stewart born in Canada in 1857. They had married in June 1882 in the Woodstock registration District. The family lived in North Street & according to some census was outside the main village boundary. In 1891 the family consisted of Lily Norah Sue born in 1885, , Moses Leon 1888, Emma Lilian 1889 & James Stewart 1890 all in Middle Barton. Moses' parents, Moses senior born 1826 in Barton & Jemima in 1826 in Hammersmith London (though she was enumerated as Irmina) were also living with them. By 1901 Jemima was a widow & living next door at 23 North Street. .Moses & Annie then had living with them, Emma who is now said to have been born in 1883 working as a shop assistant, James, Harold T born in 1893, Kenneth in 1896 & Horace. In 1911 Annie said she had been married 27 years and that two of the eight children she had born had not survived. Lily was then a dressmaker at home, Harold a labourer , Kenneth a newspaper seller & Horace still at school.

Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Military Cemetery, Belgium.



# CLACK William John

In ever loving memory of Percival Caleb second son of S J & Elizabeth Clack died Feb 2 1918 aged 15  
Also of their eldest son Trooper W J Clack MCC CAV drowned by the sinking of a transport in the Mediterranean Dec 31 1917 aged 19  
Loving sons and brothers kind beautiful memories left behind  
Also of Eva Ruth their youngest child died June 24 1923 aged 16

<b>Born</b>	September 1898 in Chipping Norton Registration district
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Drowned at sea on December 31st 1917 age 19
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Commemorated on the Chatby Memorial, Alexandria, Egypt
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 101415
<b>Unit</b>	Machine Gun Corps (cavalry) formerly 2956 Oxfordshire hussars
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Westcott Barton Memorial, also on a tombstone in the churchyard there.

Left, inscription on headstone in Westcott Barton churchyard. Sad that they lost both their sons as well as Clara who died when a year old.

William was a son of John Samuel born 1871 in Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire & Elizabeth nee Lainchbury Clack born in 1868 in Chadlington, Oxon. John was a rural postman. They had married in December 1890 in the Chipping Norton registration district. In 1901 the family was living in Ebenezer Villa, Spelsbury Road, Charlbury. Their family then consisted of Alice Elizabeth born in Charlbury in 1892, Hannah Mary 1893 in Oddington, Gloucestershire. Jessie Phyllis Elizabeth also born there in 1895, then Lydia Hephzibah in 1897, William & Clara A in 1900, all in Charlbury. in the 1911 census Elizabeth said she had been married for 20 years & had lost one of the nine children born to her. The family was still at the same address & the children living with them were Jessie who was a domestic servant, Lydia a nursemaid & William who was a butcher's errand boy as well as at school. The other children born to them were Percival Caleb in 1903, John Samuel in 1905 & Eva Ruth in 1907. John was on a troop ship T S Osmanieh which was struck by a mine when entering Alexandria harbour. 76 officers & men were lost that day including army nurses. The family must have moved to Brookside, Enstone Hill, Westcote Barton by the time commemorations were made.

The Chatby Memorial.

The cemetery surrounding the memorial





## CONSTABLE Frederick William (brother)

<b>Born</b>	September 1891 in Middle Barton
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Killed in action on November 4th 1918 age 27
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in Landrecies British Cemetery, Nord, France
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	B 49
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 65103
<b>Unit</b>	16th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton Memorial & on his brother's headstone there.

Frederick was the eldest son of William John Constable born in 1867 in Lechlade, Gloucestershire and Eliza Ann nee Kilby born in Smallheath, Birmingham in 1868. They married in the Farringdon Registration district which covered Lechlade in June 1888. They had children variously in Steeple Barton or Middle Barton. In the 1891 census they were living at Home Farm, South Street where William was a baker & farmer. They then just had Lily Amelia born in 1890 in Steeple Barton. In the 1911 census the family had been much enlarged with the addition of many more children. Eliza then said she had been married for 22 years & all eight children she had born were still living.

Frederick was killed on the day they captured Landrecies from the Germans after it being in their hands since Mons in 1914.

Landrecies British Cemetery, Nord, France.



## CONSTABLE John (brother)

<b>Born</b>	June 1893 in Middle Barton.
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Died presumably of illness on February 19th 1917 age 23
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in Steeple Barton churchyard
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 2955
<b>Unit</b>	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton Church

John was the next youngest brother to Frederick. In the 1911 census all the children except Frederick were at home. They were Lily Amelia who was an assistant draper. John who was an assistant baker, Elizabeth Mary born 1895 in Steeple Barton & who was an assistant in the dairy, Victor Percy 1896 also in Steeple Barton another assistant baker. There were then Gertrude Amy 1902, Alice Emily 1905, Albert Edward 1907 all in Middle Barton. They also had a live in domestic servant.

Although John's death was obtained from civilian records, he is recorded on the CWGC records. He did serve overseas as he had medals which were only given if you had been overseas. On his card it says Disc which I assume was discharged probably on account of his health.

## HAWKINS Albert Edward (brother)

<b>Born</b>	Born March quarter 1890 in Middle Barton
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Died of Wounds on April 4th 1918 age 29
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	Block P VII.N 8B
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 143187
<b>Unit</b>	Machine Gun Corps, formerly 5692 Yorkshire regiment & 41041 West Yorkshire regiment
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton

Albert was the second of three surviving sons of Stephen Henry Hawkins born 1864 in Middle Barton an elder brother of the previous casualty & Martha nee Walker born in Bemondsey London in 1862. In the 1891 census the family was living in Over Worton. Stephen was an agricultural labourer & in this census said he was born in Lea Garden, Barton as he said was Albert. Martha then said she was an orphan of London, presumably the enumerator was not very illiterate & she was an orphan. George had been born in December 1887 in Westcott Barton. In 1901 the family then had the addition of William Walker born in 1898. I can't find where their youngest son Ernest James born in December 1895 was living at that time. William died in March 1902 age 3. In the 1911 census Martha said she had been married for 24 years, had given birth to 5 children of whom 3 were still living. They were then living in Jacob's Yard, Middle Barton. George & Ernest were both living at home & were Farm labourers like their father. The cemetery in Rouen is vast & most of the men there are named. This is because there were several military hospital in the sand dunes between there & Boulogne where the men would have been taken to from Casualty Clearing stations hoping to be returned to England. His medals were apparently returned possibly there was no one to receive them.

St Sever Cemetery, note the graves of the French Algerian & Moroccan soldiers in the foreground.



## HAWKINS Ernest James jnr (brother)

<b>Born</b>	December 1895 in Middle Barton.
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Killed in action on October 9th 1917 age 22
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, West Flanders, Belgium
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	Panels 154 - 159
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 106940
<b>Unit</b>	Machine Gun Corps (infantry)
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton

Ernest was the youngest surviving son of Stephen Henry born 1864 in Middle Barton & Martha nee Walker Hawkins born in Bermondsey, London in 1862. Both of Ernest's brothers were to be killed as was his uncle of the same Christian names & his father's youngest brother. His mother was to die in September 1920 age 59 so Stephen lost his three sons & wife within 3 years. he did however remarry in 1922, this information gained from a family tree posted on Ancestry.

His uncle's service records gave details of his brothers & sisters when they applied for his medals. They were William 53 living at 41 Nelson Street, Oxford, Stephen 56 still in Middle Barton, George 60 in Brockholes, Danby, Northallerton, Yorkshire, Edith Bolton 49, 45 Bakers Lane, Ealing, London, Julia 58, 2 Alexandra Road, Warrington, Lancashire, How far this Middle Barton family had moved away from their roots . *I have given them here as there wasn't room on his page.*

Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial. The names are on these panels at the top of the cemetery.





# HAWKINS Ernest James senior

<b>Born</b>	August 25th 1877
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Died of wounds on April 19th 1917 Age 39
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	II .L,1
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Gunner 73221
<b>Unit</b>	108th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton Church

Ernest was the youngest son of James Hawkins born 1828 in Steeple Barton, an agricultural labourer & Harriett nee Bettridge born 1838 in Over Barton/ Worton? In the 1861 census when their only child was George Edward born in 1859. Harriett was a glove maker. They had married in October 1858. By the 1871 census they had further children, all born in Steeple Barton, Caroline Julia in 1861, Stephen Henry 1864, William John 1867 & Edith H 1870. In 1881 the family was in Duns Tew Road with the addition of Harry born in 1874 & Ernest James in 1877. The two elder boys were also working as agricultural labourers. Harriett died in 1885 so in the 1891 census James was living with Edith as his housekeeper & Ernest the only other child still at home. In 1901 James was living on his own in Duns Tew Road. Ernest in 1901 was in barracks in Alverstoke, Hampshire with the Oxfordshire Militia where practically all of his comrades were from Oxfordshire with a few from Berkshire or Gloucestershire. James died in December 1909. In 1911 Ernest too was living on his own in High Street, Westcott Barton. His service papers have survived among the 'Burnt Records' He attested on December 4th 1915 at the Citadel, Plymouth, He then said he had served 6 years in the Oxford Militia. Much information has been washed out but bits can be read. He had married Elsie Maud Timms on March 2nd 1916 at Steeple Barton Church. When she applied to the Army for a pension she said he had been maintaining two children that were not his, Violet Margery Timms born May 30th 1912 & Gertrude Nellie Timms March 3rd 1914 as well as their own child Edith Maud born March 29th 1916. The pensions officer said fathers of these children were unknown & he doubted if she even knew! A rather harsh comment. She was living in Ledwell, Sandford St Martin. This Ernest was the uncle of the three brothers, one of whom had the same Christian names.

Duisans British Cemetery & a spectacular car crash on November 29th 2014 which destroyed 77 graves already replaced by Christmas.



## HAWKINS George Henry (brother)

George's headstone, he is just recorded as G in Army records.



<b>Born</b>	December 1887 in Middle Barton
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Died of wounds on January 17th 1917 age 29
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	II. A 24
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private
<b>Unit</b>	London Regiment 1st/13th Kensington Battalion
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton

George was the eldest son of Stephen & Martha (Patty) Hawkins and the first to die. I have given details of his family & that of his uncle in the previous entries. Although other families had three sons killed during the war I doubt there were many where this meant the whole family had been lost. It is probably little wonder that their mother died in 1920. She probably thought she had nothing to live for having already lost two children in infancy as shown in the 1911 census. The Merville Communal Cemetery Extension was used by casualties of the Commonwealth & Portuguese armies from hospitals around Merville.

Merville Communal Cemetery Extension.



When a cemetery is named as a Communal one it is because it is part of a French civilian one. When an extension it means it is separate from the communal one but joined to it.

# HUMPHRIES William Edward

<b>Born</b>	June 1898 in Middle Barton
<b>Killed in Action or Died</b>	Died of wounds on July 30th 1918 age 20
<b>Buried at or commemorated</b>	Buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France
<b>Grave or memorial reference</b>	III. D.283
<b>Service / Branch</b>	Army
<b>Rank</b>	Private 37920
<b>Unit</b>	8th Service Battalion, Gloucester Regiment
<b>Awards</b>	
<b>Local memorials on which commemorated</b>	Steeple Barton

William who was actually registered as Edward William was the eldest of six sons of William a self employed carrier born in Middle Barton in 1867 and Ellen Grace nee Simson Humphries born in Middle Barton in 1866. They married in the June quarter of 1897. In the 1901 census the family was living next to Church Farm in Westcott Barton. They then had William, Frederick Alexander born in 1899 and James Henry in 1900. By the time of the 1911 census the family was living in Jacob's Yard, Middle Barton. Ellen then said she had been married for 13 years & all seven children born to her were still living. The family had increased with the births of Robin Leonard in 1902, Frank Edward in 1904 & Vernon A in 1911. There was a daughter Vanda age 5 crossed out. It seems she was staying elsewhere on the census night as there is a record of an Albina Vanda born in 1906, all in Middle Barton. This would also account for the seven children Ellen said she had given birth to.

The Bailleul Communal cemetery has the longest continual rows of headstones I have found anywhere else . Some rows having over 300 graves.



William is also commemorated on his mother's tombstone in Steeple Barton churchyard.