

# CORSTON WAR MEMORIAL



*“Let them rest quietly there on the field,  
Where they fell fighting but never would yield.  
While their great spirit’s heard heaven’s great call,  
Bravely to conquer on, bravely to fall.”*

*Sapper J. Cray. Royal Engineers  
(located in an attic 2010)*

**There follows a portrayal of those villagers whose names appear on the Corston War memorial and who perished in the Great and Second World wars.**

The details in this portrayal have been obtained from various sources including -

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
The Public Archives (now National Archives)  
Some regimental archives  
The Australian War Memorial at Canberra  
The Australian National Archives  
Corston Village historical documents  
Corston Church records  
Mrs. Betty Palfrey  
Mrs Ethel Pommeroy  
Mrs Muriel Kerr  
Mr John Harrill

Where the details are incomplete, should anyone reading this be able to offer more then please contact the author -

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Bath  
BA2 9AW

The War Memorial at Corston was designed by Mr Mowbray A Green FRIBA and constructed in Bath stone by Mr F J Blackmore of Twerton. The canopied cap has 4 faces each representing scenes from the New Testament, being the Birth, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension. It was dedicated in 1921(?) by Prebendary M E Hoets, Rural Dean of Keynsham in the absence of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The memorial was refurbished in 2010 by Orchard Stonemasons of Silverton, Devon.

There follows a list of those villagers who are represented on the War Memorial and individual histories on each of them.

## **GREAT WAR**

**Capt F Bartelt**

**Sgt W Eyers**

**Sgt A Janes**

**Sgt W Smith**

**Pte P Box**

**Pte E Brooks**

**Pte T Davey**

**Pte I Eades**

**Pte P Hannam**

**Gnr C Hannam**

**Pte J Mercer**

**Pte H Miller**

**Pte A Rivers**

## **SECOND WORLD WAR**

**O. Seaman V Barnes**

**Pte H Brain**

**Pilot Officer E Harrill**

**Flying Officer D Brain**

**Pte D Judd**

*Dawn off the Foreland - the young flood making  
Jumbled and short and steep -  
Black in the hollows and bright where it's breaking -  
Awkward water to sweep.  
'Mines reported in the fairway,  
'Warn all traffic and detail.  
'Sent up Unity, Claribel, Assyrian, Stormcock, and Golden Gain'*

From 'Minesweepers' by Rudyard Kipling with deference to HMML 187

*If I should die think only this of me:  
That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is forever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam.  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blessed by the suns of home.  
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,  
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less  
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.*

Rupert Chawner Brooke (1887-1915)

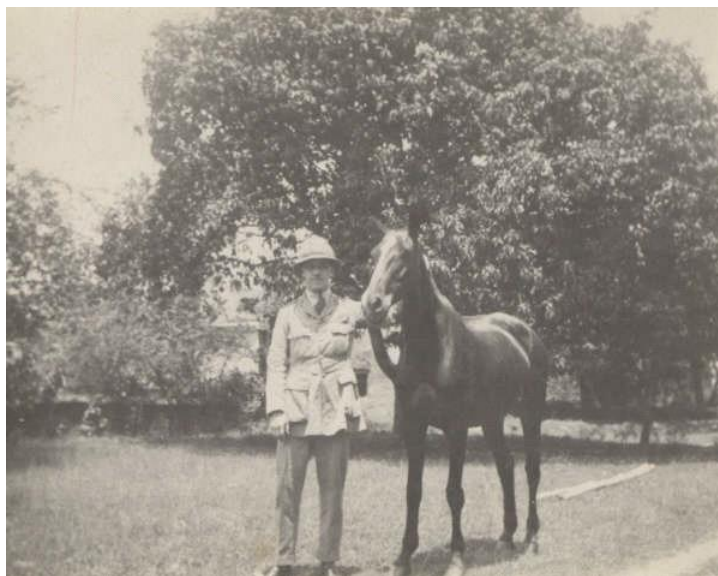
*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sub-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence; hovering there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.*

*Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle ever flew -  
And while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrodden sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God*

John Gillespie Magee RCAF (killed 1941)

## Captain Friedrich Wilhelm Bartelt

Son of Freidrich Ludwig, a Magistrate and Chemical manufacturer and Rosanna Bartelt of Corston Lodge, now St Terersa's, husband of Gertrude Bartelt, father to Richard and Peter and brother to Amy. He was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1887 in Corston and lived at Southbourne, Bournemouth.



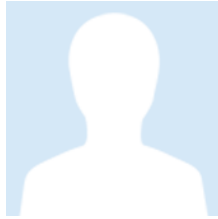
Regiment – Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Bn (Territorials).

Died - 11<sup>th</sup> September 1916 in Calcutta, India, aged 28.

Buried - His body was repatriated to Corston All Saints church on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1917 where his ashes lie behind a brass plaque inside the church. There is a stained glass window in his memory

## **Sergeant William (*Bertie*) Eyres**

Son of William (a Carter and Agricultural Labourer) and Mary Eyres, formerly of Lower Farm, High Street, Corston. He was born in Corston in 1886 and had a brother, John, and two sisters, Martha and Rose. At age 15 he was a boarder at Highbury House in St Saviours Parish of Walcot and was listed as a Gardener. He served at Flanders prior to the Somme.



Regiment - Royal Garrison Artillery 44<sup>th</sup> Siege Bty. Service no. 14069

Died - 21<sup>st</sup> October 1916. Aged 30.

Buried - Dernancourt communal cemetery extension, Somme, France.  
Grave no. III.H.27.

## Sergeant Albert E Janes

Son of Samuel ( a labourer on the roads) and Florence Janes of 4 Coffee Pot Cottages, now Shorts, Corston. He is listed in the Somerset Light Infantry as Arthur and was born at Park Road Newton St Loe in 1887 and had two brothers, Wilfred and Frederick, and a sister Annie.



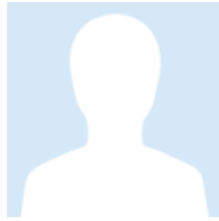
Regiment - Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Alberts), 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Service no. 14666

Died - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917, aged 31.

Buried - Roeux British Cemetary, Pas de Calais, near Arras, France.  
Grave no. Sp.Mem.E.4.

## Sergeant Walter Smith

Son of Walter (a carter on the farm) and Ellen Smith of 5 Brook Cottages, Corston. He was born at The Quarry, Newton St Loe in 1888 and had three sisters, Rosina, Beatrice, and Ethel, and a brother, Frank. He was registered as living at 5 Ashen Hill (now Ashton Hill) in 1901. He served both at Flanders and The Somme and it is noted in Parish records that he met with Percy Box in the Dardanelles in 1916 which indicates that he also saw service at Gallipoli.



Regiment - South Wales Borderers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Service no. 10023. Elisted at Aberbargoed, Monmouthshire.

Died - 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, aged 28.

Posted - Thiepval Memorial (designed by Sir Edward Lutyens), Somme, France, Pier and Face 4A (this means his body has not been located).



## Private Percy George Box

Son of James (a carter on a farm at Corston Fields) and Hester Box of 10 Ashen (Ashton) Hill, Corston (now Church Farm Business Park). He was born in Priston on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1887 and baptized at Corston church. He had two brothers, Herbert and Arthur, and two sisters, Elena and Clara. It is noted in Parish records that he met with Walter Smith in the Dardanelles in 1916.



Regiment - 25<sup>th</sup> Bn (Infantry) Australian Infantry Force (AIF). Service No. 37. Enlisted in Townsville, Queensland, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1915 as a Lengthsman.

Died - 5<sup>th</sup> August 1916.

Posted - Villiers-Bretonneux Memorial (Australian), near Amiens, Somme, France, and Australian Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, panel 103, Canberra.

Percy George Box is posted in the 1911 census so we can assume he emigrated to Australia after that, having been a farm labourer. He is listed as residing at Buderin Mountains, via Woombye, Queensland care of a Mrs Hurford at the time of enlistment. He embarked on the Australian troopship HMAT Aeneas (ship no. A60) on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1915

He served in Gallipoli and the Somme, France and was posted missing on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1916. He was finally declared killed in action (KIA) on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1917.

The Australian Red Cross records state the following -

“He was a little dark and clean shaven chap. The 25<sup>th</sup> had taken the ridge at Pozieres on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1916 and his discs were picked up in No Mans’ Land, all that was left as he was reported blown up by a shell“.

## Private Ernest James Brooks

Son of Francis ( a contractor on the roads) and Laura Brooks of Stantonbury House, Corston. Parish records however indicate they were in Stantonbury View, now Bury View. He was born in 1891at Corston and had two sisters, Blanche and Fanny. He was a stone haulier prior to enlistment. He enlisted at Keynsham.



Regiment - Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry 8<sup>th</sup> Bn. Service no. 20801

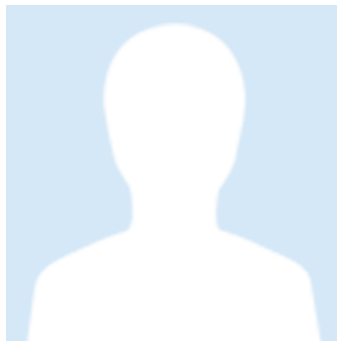
Died - 28<sup>th</sup> April 1917.

Posted - Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, near Arras, France. This means his body was not located.

## Private Thomas William Davey

Son of George ( a gardener for Lord Temple and then the Bartelts) and Harriet Davey of 1, The Brook Cottages, Corston. He was born in 1887 at Corston or Newton St. Loe and had two sisters, Amy and Alice, and five (according to Parish records) brothers, Sidney Sam (according to Parish records, injured in action), Brendon, Leonard, Albert, and Arthur. In 1911 he was registered at The Castle, Capetown on the HQ Staff Cape of Good Hope, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Tempe, Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, South Africa.

His Father, George was married twice with Thomas, Sidney, being an issue of the first marriage. The second marriage to Harriet produced the other children.



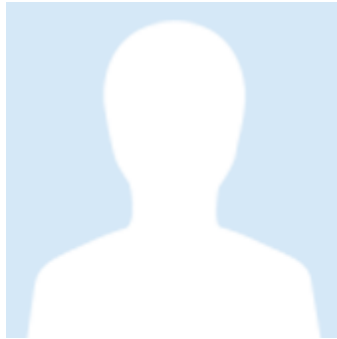
Regiment - Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Service no. 7964.

Died - 9<sup>th</sup> September 1914, aged 26.

Posted - La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre memorial, Seine-et-Marne, near Paris France. This means his body was not located. A Memorial Book (Somerset Country Memorial, a leather bound book) is purportedly located in Wells Cathedral.

## Private Ivan (*Ivin*) Stanley Eades

A groom, he was the son of Alfred (a plasterer and house painter who died October 1918) and Lydia Eades of Fern Cottage (now Fernside and Barnclose in The Barton), Corston. He was born in Newton St Loe in 1895 and had two sisters, Dorothea and Eleanor (possibly a third called Jessie), and 3 brothers, James, William, and Charles. Prior to enlisting at Devizes he was a Groom.



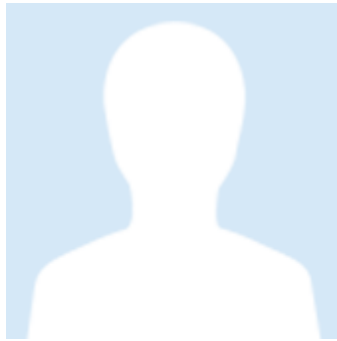
Regiment - Coldstream Guards, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Service no. 11352.

Died - 25<sup>th</sup> January 1915 La Bassee.

Posted - Le Touret memorial, panels 2 and 3, Pas de Calais, France. This means his body was not located.

## Private Percy William Hannam

Son of Henry (a platelayer) and Elizabeth Hannam of Market Road Corston, then 6 Fidlers Cottages (possibly where The Meadlands now begins and also known as Fidlers Row), Corston. He was born in Corston in 1888 and had nine sisters, Florence Nora, Phyllis, Georgina, Rosina, Isabella, Hagar, Sibylla, Cordelia, and Gertrude and six brothers, Henry W, Bertie, Francis, Oliver, Alfred, and Christopher (also on the Roll of Honour). He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Prince Alberts Somersetshire Light Infantry on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1906 at Bath aged 17 having been an errand boy and was posted to Taunton. He is listed in 1911 at Saint Andrews Barracks, Malta. He had returned to UK in June 1915 with a wound to his left hand.



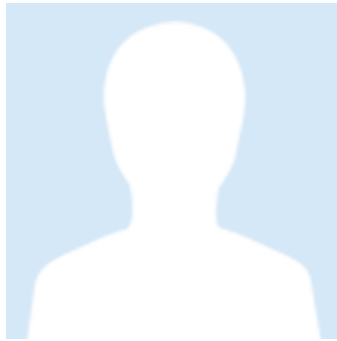
Regiment - Somerset Light Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Service no. 7904.

Died - 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, aged 28

Buried - Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave no. IX.B.14.

## **Private (Gunner) Christopher George Hannam**

Son of Henry (a platelayer) and Elizabeth Hannam of Market Road Corston, then 6 Fidlers Cottages (possibly where The Meadlands now begins and also known as Fidlers Row), Corston. He was born in Corston in 1892 and had nine sisters, Florence Nora, Phyllis, Georgina, Rosina, Isabella, Hagar, Sibylla, Cordelia, and Gertrude and six brothers, Henry W, Bertie, Francis, Oliver, Alfred, and Percy (also on the Roll of Honour). In 1911 he is listed as a driver for B Battery Royal Horse Artillery at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Trowbridge. In 1915 he was severely injured by a fall from a horse in India.



Regiment - Royal Horse Artillery, 208<sup>th</sup> Anti aircraft secn. And the Royal Field Artillery.  
Service no. 63026

Died - 20<sup>th</sup> July 1917, aged 25 in Mesopotamia.

Buried - Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq.

## **Private John Edmund Mercer**

Son of Simon, a butcher and Sarah Anne of Bath Road, Corston and formerly of New Road, Huntspill. He was born at Corston in 1890 and had one sister, Louisa. In 1911 he was listed as being resident at Rannillies Barracks, Marlborough Lines, Aldershot.



Regiment - Coldstream Guards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Service no. 8092. Enlisted at Bridgewater.

Died - 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915, aged 25 of enteric fever and pneumonia.

Buried - St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Siene-Maritime, France. Grave no. A.5.

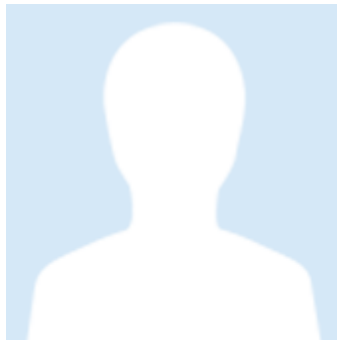
## Private Herbert Edward Miller

Son of Edward (a gardener) and Mary Miller of 3 Manor Cottages, Winsley in 1911/Hanham Abbots in 1901. He was born at Portishead in 1892.

In 1901 he is listed as living at Whittucks Lane, Hanham Abbots.

In 1911 he is listed as a Baker and Confectioner and living at a bakery at 35 North View, Westbury Park, Bristol.

In 1915 his Mother is listed as being resident at The Cottage, Hill House, Corston.



Regiment - Royal Gloucestershire Yeomanary Corps of Hussars 1<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup>.

Service no. 235765. Reg. No. 3265 3/1 RGH.

Died - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1918, aged 26 of TB.

Buried - Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave C.265

The cemetery contains some of those brought from Gallipoli and from the Western Desert.

***The War Memorial lists a H H Miller, same Regiment and Service No. etc but the CWG lists this man, H E Miller and the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars web site only lists H E Miller, as does the memorial at Gloucester Cathedral.***



## Private James Rivers

Son of John (a market gardener) and Helen Eliza Rivers of 9 The Barton, Corston. He was born at Corston in 1898 and had two sisters, Elsie and Nellie and three brothers, Walter, Albert, and John. Parish records show that he was formerly at The Maltsters House (No.12) where William, Elsie, Jack (John), Nellie, and Walter also lived.



Regiment - Welsh Regiment, 10<sup>th</sup> Bn. Service no. 55805.

Died - 19<sup>th</sup> August 1917, aged 19. Probably in the 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Ypres.

Posted - Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, panel 93-94.  
This means his body was not located.

## Ordinary Seaman Victor Percival Barnes

Son of Joe and Ethel Barnes of 39 Ashton Hill (house demolished in 1958). He was born 1921 (registered at Keynsham in 1922) and had 2 sisters, Vesta and Vera, and 3 brothers, Charles, Bertie, and Clifford. Parish records show that his Father apparently re-married (Ethel's sister) and Bertie and Clifford were issues from this.



Service - Royal Navy. HMML 187. Service no. D/JX 34508.

Died - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1942, aged 21 circumstances unknown.

Buried - Corston churchyard.



HM Motor Launch 187 was a Fairmile B of the 11<sup>th</sup> ML Flotilla. She was a minelayer in the Humber areas based at Felixstowe.

## Private Henry Loos Brain

Son of Edgar Thomas and Florence Annie Brain (nee Filor) of *The Lodge on main Bath Road (?)*..... Husband of Betty Ellen (*nee Reddcliffe or Holloway?*). He was born in 1916 and baptised at Corston on 22nd October 1916. Parish records show that he lived at Coffee Pot Cottages in 1936 with brothers Tom and Victor Roy, and sister ruby.



Regiment - Devonshire Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. No. 5626197.

Died - 16<sup>th</sup> July 1944, aged 27. Probably during the Normany landings of 1944.

Buried - Bayeaux War Cemetery , Calvados, France. Grave XXI.F.16.

## **Pilot Officer (Air Bomber) Edward Charles Harrill**

Son of Edgar, a baker and Edith Harrill of Laburnum Cottage, The Barton, Corston. He was born at the cottage in 1915 and has a brother, John who now lives in Southsea, Hampshire. He was called up in 1941 and sent to the USA for training.



Service - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 100 Sqn. Service no. 157285..

Died - 4<sup>th</sup> September 1943, aged 28.

Buried - Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, grave 1.K.17.

Edward Harrill was in a Lancaster Mk III, serial no. JA930 HW-Y which took off at 19.49 hours from Grimsby. The aircraft exploded over Berlin. He had been promoted from Sergeant three days before.

## Flying Officer Dennis Ingham Brain

Son of Henry Edward and Nora Winnifred Brain (nee Ingham), Husband of Barbara Jean (nee Simpson) of Cardiff having married in 1943. He was born in 1921 and baptised at Corston on 23rd October 1921 (registered Keynsham). Parish records show two brothers, Leonard and Colin. Although originally resident in The Lodge, main road (A4), he is reported to have stayed with his Grandmother in Ashton Hill. Parish records show that the family moved to Colerne in 1936.



Service - Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 57 Sqn (*based East Kirkby*).

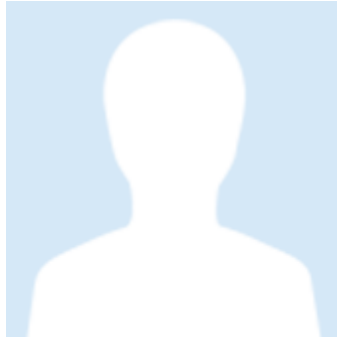
Died - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1944, aged 23. Service no. 178527.  
Crashed near Crick Lancaster Mk1 DX-t No. LM729

Posted - Runnymede Memorial, panel 204. This means his body was not located.

*There is still a little doubt about the authenticity of these notes.*

## Private Derek James Judd

Son of Thomas and Jane Judd of Saltford (Dryleaze East). He was born in Norfolk in 1927. Parish records show there to be three brothers, Gordon, Doug, Vic, and a sister, Mary.



Regiment - Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (Hereford Regt), 1<sup>st</sup> Bn.  
Service no. 14802424

Died - 1<sup>st</sup> April 1945, aged 18 in the Western Europe campaign.

Buried - Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.  
Grave 61.G.3.