HISTORY

Heroes of the great war
Old Newportonians who gave their Lives 1914–18

Following Jeff Bines’s excellent supplement on the residents of Newport who fell in the two World Wars in our last issue it was pointed out that it might be timely to do something similar for the Newportonians from the Grammar school. We therefore asked Malcolm White, a local resident, Old Newportonian, a past President of the ON Society, a former Governor and who was Clerk to the Saffron Walden Town Council for 34 years if he would undertake the task. He readily agreed and here is the account of the 24 ONs who died in WW1. The fallen of WW2 will follow in later issues. We are very grateful to him for all his hard work and research.

Hugh Barnard
Hugh was the son of William Charles and Kate Barnard of High Street Newport. He attended Miss Crane’s School in the village before arriving at the Grammar School in April 1909. Whilst at school he passed the junior Cambridge Local Examinations gaining a 3rd class honours and a distinction in Geography. He left in July 1913 and worked briefly for his father as a grocer’s assistant. With the outbreak of war he rushed to join the forces, lying about his age. He became a member of the 8th (Cyclist) Battalion of the Essex Regiment, a Territorial Battalion and was later transferred to the 1/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion. He was posted to India and was drowned in a swimming accident on 20th March, 1917, at the age of 19. He is buried in Plot C, Grave 155 at the Poona (St. Sepulchre’s) Cemetery in India.

(Robert) Cyril Barnard
Born on 8th June, 1892, Cyril was the youngest son of Sidney Charles and Ellen Elizabeth Barnard of Braeside, London Road, Newport. He attended Miss Crane’s School in Wicken Road, entering Newport Grammar School in Lent 1902. Cyril was at the school for seven years and proved quite a sportsman. In 1904, when he was only 12, he was playing for the school football team, and by the following year he was also playing for the cricket team of which he became vice-captain in 1907. He left in July 1909 to become an auctioneer and land agent.

Within two months of the outbreak of the war he had joined the volunteers, becoming a 2nd Lieutenant in the 58th Division, Training HQ of the Royal Army Service Corps. Despite a less than flattering report from his senior officer in December, 1915, he was promoted to Lieutenant in July 1917. He was serving in the Headquarters of the RASC at Poperinge during the 3rd Battle of Ypres, when on 5th September, 1917, a plane attack took place which resulted in him being killed. It is believed that he was in a tent at the time which was sprayed with bullets. His parents learned on 7th September, 1917 that he was severely wounded, although in fact he had died on 5th September.
aged 25. He was described as “a young man, well known and greatly respected” He is buried at Mendingham Military Cemetery at Proven in Belgium, Plot 3, Row D, Grave 18. (For further details of Cyril Barnard, see Newport News, Summer 1994, pp.69–70 – ‘The Life and Death of a Newport Hero”, (Robert Cyril Barnard, 1892 – 1917).

George W. Beadle, M.C.
George Whitmore Beadle was born in Westcombe Park in London. He entered Newport in September 1906, at the age of 14, leaving two years later. In 1911, he was working as a Chemist in Southampton. During the war, he served as a Second Lieutenant with “D” Company 1st/4th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment. He was 33 when he was killed on the 23rd July, 1917 and he lies buried in Plot ix Grave C6 of the Ramsseppelle Road Military Cemetery in Belgium.

Reginald H. Bennett
Reginald Howard Bennett was the son of William and Fanny Bennett of Bridge Foot Cottage, Thaxted. He was born in 1897 and initially went to Thaxted Council School entering Form II at Newport in April, 1907. He left Form IV in July 1911. He served in the war with the 17th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, and was killed on the 27th April, 1916. He is buried in Grave C of the Tranchee De Mecknes Cemetery in Aix-Noulette in the Pas De Calais region of France.

Alexander R. Campbell
Alexander Robertson Campbell was the son of William and Margaret Campbell of Broctons Farm, Debden. He went to Debden Council School, and then in April 1907, he moved to Form II at Newport Grammar School. He left in December 1908 and went into farming with his parents. He served in the war as a Corporal in the 9th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, a volunteer Battalion raised at the start of the war. He was killed on the 4th September, 1916 at the age of 23. He is buried in Grave I.F.56 at the Faubourg D’Amiens Cemetery in Arras, France.

William F. Carruthers
William Carruthers started at the School in summer 1904 at age of 13. He was a member of cricket and soccer XI’s. He joined the Royal Fusiliers as a Lieutenant and was killed on the 14th September, 1916. Sadly this is the only information I can find about him. Neither his death nor grave are recorded by the Commonwealth Graves Commission. It is likely that he was killed on the Somme during the 1916 offensive.

Hubert E. Beckett
Hubert Edge Beckett and his twin brother Harold were born in Tapping, Sheffield, the sons of Mr and Mrs William Beckett. They both joined the Grammar School in summer, 1898, where Hubert became a prefect as well as a member of both the cricket and football teams. Both boys left in December 1899 when the family moved back to Yorkshire. Hubert became an auctioneer’s pupil in Sheffield and by 1911 had become an auctioneer in his own right.

During the war, Hubert served as a Second Lieutenant with “D” Company 1st/4th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment. He was 33 when he was killed on the 23rd July, 1917 and he lies buried in Plot ix Grave C6 of the Ramsseppelle Road Military Cemetery in Belgium.

HISTORY

CYRIL BARNARD, IN THE SCHOOL CRICKET TEAM, 1906

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Bernard Child
Bernard Child was born in Tottenham, London in 1886. The family moved to Newport at the turn of the century and were living at White Lodge, London Road, Newport in 1901. Bernard entered the Grammar School in April 1899 and left two years later. He joined the Royal Navy, serving around the world. In 1911 he was Lieut. (Engineering) at Portsmouth and at the outbreak of war in August 1914, he was serving on HMS Monmouth. The Monmouth was an armoured cruiser built in 1903. At the outbreak of the War it was assigned to the 5th Cruiser Squadron and sent initially to the Central Atlantic and then, to the South Atlantic to search for the German East Asia Squadron, which contained the powerful battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. The two squadrons met at the battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on the 1st November, 1914. The Gneisenau engaged the Monmouth with accurate fire and the Monmouth was quickly hit. A shell damaged her forward turret and started a fire, which in turn caused an ammunition explosion which blew off the whole of the turret. Severely damaged the Monmouth pulled out of the line. She was spotted by the German light cruiser, Nurnberg which closed to within 600 yards to give the Monmouth the opportunity to surrender. However the Monmouth, despite having a severe list, turned towards the Nurnberg as if to attack, so the Nurnberg opened fire immediately causing the Monmouth to capsize. The entire crew, numbering 735 men and including the 28 year old Bernard Child were lost. His parents had moved to Herne Bay in Kent at the time of his death. His name is recorded on panel 1 of the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

D.L. Child
D.L. Child joined the school at summer, 1900 and left the following December, 1901. He was a Second Lieutenant with the 2nd Battalion of the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). He was killed on 11th September, 1916 and lies buried in Grave I.C.37 at Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery, Bray-Sur-Somme in France.

Harry Colman
A native of Hempstead, Harry Colman entered Newport in January 1898, leaving in July 1901. He served as a Private with the 34th Battalion of the Australian Infantry. He was killed during the battle of Messines on 11th June, 1917. He was 32 and was originally buried where he fell alongside three unknown British soldiers. In 1920 he was reburied in Grave IV.F.21 at the Messines Ridge British Cemetery in Belgium, where he lies today.

Reginald B. Cooper-Smith
Reginald Burston Cooper-Smith was the son of John Cooper the Head Master of Takeley Council School. The family lived in the School House at Brewers End in Takeley. He entered Form III in September, 1908, leaving the school three years later. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, he served with the 5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment. He was attached to the 1st Buckinghamshire Regiment when he was killed at the age of 21 on 10th March, 1917. He is buried in Grave II.L.3 at the Hem Farm Military Cemetery, Hem-Monacu in France. His father, John, and step-mother lived in Yew Tree House, Takeley.

Arthur S. Gray, M.M.
Arthur Sebastian Gray was born in 1895 and lived in Rickling with his parents, William and Jane. He was educated initially at Rickling Council School, entering Newport in September, 1906. He left in June 1910 and became a Grocers apprentice. He joined the London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) and was awarded the Military Medal. He was killed on 10th August 1918 and lies in Grave III.E.22 of the Beacon Cemetery, Sallway-Laurette in France.
**W.G.P. Hunt, M.C.**
William George Philip Hunt, MA (Aberdeen), was a master at Newport Grammar School from 1913 - 1917, teaching English, Geography and Latin. He was born in Scredington in Lincolnshire in 1892. By 1911 he was a student school master living in Coates in Gloucestershire, and started teaching at Newport in 1913. With the outbreak of the war, he joined the 10th Battalion of the Essex Regiment, receiving the Military Cross in 1916 and reaching the rank of Captain. He died of wounds at Etaples on 15th August 1917 at the age of 26. In *With the 10th Essex in France*, describing the events of July 31st 1917, is said “The heaviest loss of the day for us was Willie Hunt – hit by a 5.9 on the Menin Road, and died in hospital some little time later to the great sorrow of the Battalion”.

**John Alexander Macallan**
The son of Mr G. and Mrs E.B. Macallan, John Alexander Macallan started at Newport in Lent, 1903 leaving the following April. He served as a Rifleman with the 17th Battalion of the London Regiment. He was killed on 16th January, 1916 at the age of 26 and is buried in Grave I.B.25 at the Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay in France.

**Hugh Pilgrim, M.C.**
Hugh Thomas Pilgrim was the son of Mr and Mrs John Pilgrim of Manor Farm, Great Chesterford. He started at Newport at the age of 8 in September, 1897 and was a Gold Medallist when he left in December 1903. He was commissioned as a Captain in “C” Company, 9th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, but was killed at the age of 29 on the 25th August, 1918. At the time of his death he was married to Kate and they lived in Church Stratton in Shropshire. He lies in Grave B 32 of the Bucquoy Communal Cemetery Extension in Pas de Calais area of France.

**Rolf Simpson**
Rolf Simpson was born in Victoria, Australia in 1893. By 1901 his family were living at Swaynes Hall in Winter 2014 Newport News 21
Widdington, and in summer, 1902, he started school at Newport. He passed the Cambridge Local Examinations Preliminary in 1905 and left the school in April, 1907. By 1911 he was working as a clerk's stockbroker and living in Birchanger. He joined up at the start of the war as a Private with the 28th London Regiment becoming commissioned as a Second Lieutenant with the 18th Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Simpson was killed on 26th May 1917. He is buried in Grave I.H.9 of Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery in Belgium.

George R. Stubbing
George Rolfe Stubbing was born in Wareside, Herts, in 1890. He was the son of a farmer, Thomas Stubbing, and first went to a private school in Hadham Road, Bishops Stortford. In summer 1901 he came to Newport, where he was a member of both the cricket and soccer teams, leaving in July 1906. By 1911 he was working as a City Clerk Stockbroker. He served as a Private with the 1st Regiment of the South African Infantry. He was killed on the 10th April, 1918, but his body was never recovered and he is commemorated on Panel 15-16 and 16a of the Menin Gate memorial in Ypres, Belgium.

Gerald Tamplin
Gerald Hornby Tamplin was the son of Ernest Hornby a Civil Engineer from the Transvaal and his wife, Kate. He was born on 30th April, 1888. He came to Newport in September, 1900 at the age of 12 and left in July 1903 to go to King’s School Wimbledon. After leaving school he joined the Exchange Telegraph Company. In May 1915 he was commissioned as a Temporary Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve. At this time many Royal Naval Reservists who were additional to the needs of the fleet were encouraged to fight on land and in October, 1915 Gerald joined the 7th (Hood) Battalion of the RN Division. In October 1916 he was attached to the 190th Battalion where he undertook what was described as Gas Duties. He rejoined the Hood Battalion in March 1917, but was killed at the age of 28 on 23rd April, 1917. He lies buried in Grave III G.14 of the Point-Du-Jour Military Cemetery at Athies in France. At the time of his death, he was married to Doris Margueritte Lawford, and lived in Wandsworth.

Evelyn O.S. Wiley
Evelyn Otway Scarlett Wiley was born in Cape Colony to parents William and Alice. The family moved to Ladbroke Gardens, Kensington and in summer 1902 Evelyn joined Newport at the age of 10. He played for the school at both cricket and soccer and left in July 1907. He was a Lieutenant in the 12th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, (although at his death he was attached to the 2nd Battalion). He was the son of William and Alice Wiley who were living in Cape Town at the time of his death. He was 25 when he was killed on the 7th November, 1918, just four days before the armistice. He lies in Plot 5 Row B Grave 10 of the Tezze British Cemetery in Italy.