

EASEBOURNE (ST.MARY) CHURCHYARD - CEM10190

Gunner Robert Bonner



Robert Bonner, Gunner, 48963, died at the age of 43 at home of malaria on 3rd April 1919. He was born in Shirburn, Oxfordshire in 1876, the son of Henry and Mary Bonner. In 1901 he was a market gardener in Worthing and described as a jobbing gardener in the 1911 census. He married Rose Ann Collins, known as Annie who was born in Midhurst, in 1898 and they had three children. He became a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery as part of 6 "B" Reserve Brigade.

Captain Henry Egerton Clunies-Ross.



Henry Egerton Clunies-Ross, known as Gert to his family, was born in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia on 5th September 1891. He was the second eldest of four boys; Allan his elder brother, Robert and Ian. He was awarded an arts degree from the University of Sydney and was employed as a journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald.

Before the Great War, Gert was an enthusiastic part-time soldier, but in 1915 he enlisted and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 5th May. His brothers Allan and Robert joined up as well. Gert sailed with 19th Battalion, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force (AIF), on 25th June 1915 on-board HMAT *Ceramic* bound for Egypt as part of preparations for the Gallipoli campaign. However, he returned to Australia from Egypt after contracting enteritis in October 1915.

Once recovered, he helped organise the first Cycle Corps to leave Australia. The primary roles of the cyclists were to conduct reconnaissance and communications (message taking). They were armed as infantry and could provide mobile firepower if required. He was promoted to Lieutenant in October 1915 and Captain in April 1916.

On 18th April 1916 he re-embarked as Officer Commanding 3rd Division Cyclist Company, ANZAC Cyclist Battalion on board HMAT A64 *Demosthenes* to return to France. When they arrived in England, his unit was disbanded, and he was made a machine gun instructor. He was deployed to France and served with 39th Battalion, AIF from 10th June 1917 during the Battle of Messines Ridge and subsequent engagements till August 1917.

He transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Kings African Rifles (KAR) on 24 September 1917, and left for Nairobi. His family believe Gert transferred to the KAR to pursue a career as a professional soldier and he must have calculated this would be easier in the British colonial forces. At the time of his transfer, the KAR were

expanding rapidly to face the German threat in East Africa. Gert joined his new battalion as the strategic drive was to pursue German forces who had withdrawn into Portuguese East Africa to re-group. During these pursuit operations, Gert caught malaria.

He was hospitalised in Lindi but was then evacuated to England in June 1918 and died of malaria and pneumonic influenza in Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, London on 27th September 1918. Captain Clunies-Ross was awarded the Victory Medal, British War Medal and 1915 Star. Sadly, his brother Rob was killed a week later on 3 October 1918 in France, and is buried in Bellicourt British Cemetery. His brother Allan survived the war although injured by gas.

The family believe Gert Clunies-Ross is buried in St Mary's Churchyard as he was engaged to be married to the daughter of the parish priest. Gert's mother travelled to England in 1919 to meet up with his eldest brother Allan, now commissioned and married, and to join him on his troopship home to Australia. While in Britain, the family confirm she visited Gert's grave in Easebourne. His grave is registered with the CWGC as a private memorial.

Lieutenant (Quartermaster) Malcolm Jackson



Malcolm Menzies Jackson, 27788, Lieutenant and Quartermaster, 3rd Army Specialist Company, Royal Engineers. He died on 23rd May 1918 aged 48 at King Edward VII Sanatorium, Midhurst probably of a respiratory disease. He was twice mentioned in despatches for services during the Great War. He was born in Greenwich in 1870. He was the son of William, a distiller, and Eleanor Jackson. He joined the regular army and in 1901 he was a corporal in the Royal Engineers living in the same house as his widowed mother in Greenwich. By 1911, he was listed as a quarter master sergeant in the War Office working as an acting superintending clerk, and living in Kennington.

He married Edith Rose Johnson in December 1906 at Holy Trinity Church, Selhurst. They had three children, the eldest also called Malcolm was born in 1909, but was killed as an RAF pilot officer while attempting a landing on a training flight in an Avro 504N at Netheravon Aerodrome on 10th May 1929.

Private David Lynch

David Lynch, 3796, Private, 52 Company, Army Service Corps. He died on 5 May 1915 at King Edward VII Sanatorium of a lung disease. He was born in Burlingham, Norfolk and enlisted in Woolwich. He was a resident of Shepherds Bush, London



Sergeant Harvey Terry



Harvey Terry, Sergeant, 3474 and 668574, 13th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and 681st Agricultural Company, The Labour Corps. He was born in Easebourne and like his father Anthony, was a bricklayer by trade. He lived in Upper Easebourne with his wife Emily. They had three children. He was attested at West Lavington on 8th January 1915 aged 37. Harvey initially served in the Royal Sussex Regiment reaching the rank of Sergeant, but was later transferred to an Agricultural Company of the Labour Corps. In May 1918 whilst at home on leave, Harvey received official notification that he had been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He had volunteered to take badly needed water to men on the front line, through heavy fire. It took him 12 hours to achieve this mission but he returned safely. Harvey died at home age 42 on 26 October, 1919. His grave is registered with the CWGC as a private memorial. (Research by Chris Deadman).

Rifleman Frederick Henry Young

Frederick Henry Young, 2613, Rifleman, 11th Battalion (The Finsbury Rifles), The London Regiment. In April 1915, the Battalion was sent to Norwich to train with 162 East Midland Brigade, part of 54 (East Anglia) Division, preparing for deployment to Gallipoli. He died on 21 May 1915 at King Edward VII Sanatorium, Midhurst of a respiratory disease. He was the son of Frederick and Julia Young of Ilford, Essex.



EASEBOURNE (ST.MARY) NEW CHURCHYARD - CEM10191

Captain Howard Evans

Howard Geoffrey Evans, Captain, 204904, 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died 25th September 1945 at King Edward VII Sanatorium after losing his leg in action, aged 37. Son of Ernest Sydney and Hilda Martha Evans of Purley, Surrey. His battalion was sent to participate in the Anglo-Iraq war and the Syria/Lebanon campaign and sent to Egypt in 1942. Capt Evans is commemorated on the Whitgift School World War 2 memorial and mentioned in the remembrance book Croydon and Second World War.



Lance Bombardier Richard Foard



Richard William Charles Foard, Lance Bombardier, 924278, 144th Field Regiment (Surrey and Sussex Yeomanry), Royal Artillery. He was the son of William Charles and Phyllis Elizabeth Foard of Midhurst. LBdr Foard was killed in a road traffic accident on 15th June 1940 while riding a motorbike on the Chippenham to Malmesbury Road. He was an only child and his father was killed during World War One. He joined the Territorial Army in 1938 and had been an apprentice car mechanic on the Cowdray Estate and lived at 134 North Street, Midhurst. The coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure. His funeral took place at Easebourne Church with floral tributes from "his mates at Cowdray Estate Garage" and "all ranks 389 Battery, Sussex Yeomanry". LBdr Foard is commemorated on the Midhurst war memorial.

Wing Commander Bernard Ingham DFC

Bernard Ingham DFC was born in 1920 in Bolton Lancashire, the son of Alfred, a Director of a Bleach Works and Marion Ingham.

He joined the Royal Air Force just before the start of the Second World War in August 1939, as a sergeant pilot. After flying training, he joined 234 Squadron in November 1940 based at RAF Middle Wallop near Andover, flying Spitfires, as part of No 10 Group, flying in defence of Portsmouth, Southampton and other targets along the south coast.

In 1941 he was posted to 72 Squadron based at Biggin Hill, where the squadron undertook offensive sweeps over Northern France. On 22 November 1941, he was credited with a third share of a kill of a Messerschmitt BF 109E and a Focke Wolf 190. In that month, he was also commissioned.



In February 1942, Flight Lieutenant Ingham was a flight commander in 129 Squadron based at RAF Westhampnett, known today as Goodwood airfield. The squadron's role was to provide escorts for daylight bombing raids operating over occupied Europe. This was part of the RAF's attempt to 'lean over the Channel' and put the Germans on the defensive.

Between 11-13 February 1942, his squadron was part of the response to the channel dash when the German battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst with their support vessels, ran the British blockade, and redeployed from their base in Brest France, back to German ports, via the English Channel. To sneak through the channel under the noses of the British forces caused a public outrage, but for Bernard Ingham it was a moment of conspicuous gallantry, when he won the Distinguished Flying Cross. The citation, gazetted in July 1942, reads:

"This officer has completed a large number of operational sorties. He is an extremely reliable and efficient leader whose work has proved most valuable. During an attack on the warships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst at sea, Flt Lt Ingham shot down an enemy fighter which was attacking one of our aircraft. He has destroyed 2 enemy aircraft."

It is believed that fighter was a Focke Wolfe 190. In August 1942, whilst on flying operations from RAF Thorney Island, he claimed a share in the shooting down of a Dornier 217 bomber whilst on operations in support of the ill-fated Canadian amphibious landing at Dieppe flying Spitfire Mark 5s.

By April 1943, he had left 129 Squadron to join 41 Squadron operating from RAF Tangmere. This squadron was the first of only two squadrons to receive the new Griffon-engine Mark XII Spitfires which had greater speed and firepower. In July 1943, he was put in command of the Squadron and in November he was promoted to Wing Commander.

The records show that he left the squadron in November 1943. In July 1944 he was married in St Austell, Cornwall to Joan who was from Llanelli, Wales. They had one child together. At some point, he contracted tuberculosis, and was probably treated for the condition at King Edward VII Hospital.

What is clear, is that Wing Commander Ingham died on 6th August 1947, two years after the end of the war, of the tuberculosis he had contracted. He is commemorated on the Llanelli war memorial.

Flying Officer Colin Izzard DFC



Colin Roy Izzard DFC, Flying Officer (Air Bomber), 157641, Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve, 578 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Awarded DFC in 1943. He died of injuries received during the war on 24th February 1947 aged 29 at King Edward VII Sanatorium and his funeral was held three days later at St Mary's Church, Easebourne. Before the war, he was a Police Constable in H Division of Metropolitan Police Force. He was the son of Roland and Caroline Izzard and husband of Cecelia Izzard. FO Izzard is commemorated on the Hitchin war memorial.

Gunner Leslie Williams

Leslie George Williams, Gunner, 1083558, 113th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 12th July 1941 aged 27. He was the husband of Irene Nellie May Williams of Havant, Hampshire but who was brought up in Easebourne. Leslie grew up in Hawkhurst near Royal Tunbridge Wells. He was drowned in an accident in Ashford, Kent while training with other soldiers on the South Coast. Before joining up he was the second gardener at Great Wigsell, Hawkhurst for six years, followed by five years in Lord Cowdray's garden at Cowdray Park and was a member of the Easebourne church choir. He was married for two years and his funeral was at Easebourne Church. He is commemorated on the Hawkhurst war memorial and the WW1 and WW2 tablet at St Laurence's Church, Hawkhurst.

