

## The War Memorial

A total of 108 men from East Haddon served in WW1, and 63 in WW2.

**East Haddon Village War Memorial**, erected March 1920, stands in the grounds of the Parish Church. It records the names of 22 men from this Parish who died in WW1, and two men who died in WW2.

A short biography of each of these 24 men follows this list.

David Cecil Bingham	1914
Frederick Hadley	1914
John Alfred Clark	1914
Leslie John Robinson	1915
Albert De Ville	1915
William Amos Watson	1915
Frank Cadman	1916
Albert Arthur Johnson	1916
William Farn	1916
Harry Dodd	1917
James William Garrett	1917
Edgar Nevins Bramsdon	1917
Spencer Gwilliam David	1917
George Pyle	1917
James Edward Baskott M.M.	1917
William Charles Cole	1918
Edward Baskott	1918
James Cadd	1918
Ernest Edward Thompson	1918
Charles Richard Parker	1918
Walter Hammands Hadley M.M.	1918
Rupert Victor Dennison	1919
William Sims	1941
Ronald Henry Gardener	1946

### **DAVID CECIL BINGHAM Lieutenant**

David was born on 18th March 1887 in London, the son of Major-General Sir Cecil Edward Bingham. Because they were a military family, they lived at various addresses in and around London – in the 1911 census he was living in Maidenhead. He appears on the East Haddon War Memorial because his mother, Rose Elinor, lived in East Haddon in her early years. Her father, David Charles Guthrie, MP for Northampton, bought East Haddon Hall from the Sawbridges in 1891. Rose was born in 1893.

Educated at Eton, and Royal Military College Sandhurst, David was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards in August 1906. David and his battalion went to France in August 1914, part of the British Expeditionary Force, two weeks after the war started. They were posted to the east of Paris and fought in the Battle of the Aisne against the German army advancing on Paris. 5,000 British soldiers were killed in the battle, including Lieutenant Bingham on 14th September 1914.

David was only 27 when he died. He left a 21-year-old widow, Rosabelle – they had been married for only 2½ years – and a 1-year-old daughter, named Rose. David's name appears on the memorial at La Ferte Sous Jouarre, 66 km east of Paris, together with 5000 other English soldiers.



He is also commemorated in the Mayo Memorial Park in Castlebar, Ireland – the name Bingham is the family name of the Earls of Lucan, and David's father was a son of the 4th Earl of Lucan. The Mayo Memorial Park commemorates all people with local connections who died in foreign wars.

### **FREDERICK HADLEY Private 7079**

Frederick Hadley was born in 1880, and lived with his mother, father and younger brother at Althorp Park station. He worked as a builder. At the start of the war, he signed up to the Northamptonshire Regiment and served as a Private in the 1st Battalion.

Originally sent to France, by November, the regiment had advanced into Belgium, and he fought in the first battle of Ypres, Belgium, which was a success for the British. However, he was killed on 11th November 1914. The war ended on the same date four years later, and this date is now our Remembrance Day. Frederick has no known grave, and his name appears on the Menin Gate Memorial (panel 43 and 45) at Ypres, in Belgium, together with over 54,000 other British soldiers who equally have no known burial place.



### **JOHN ALFRED CLARK Private 3/10455**

John Alfred Clark was born in 1877, and lived with his parents John and Elizabeth Clark, at Gulliver's Cottage, Holdenby Northampton, together with his younger brother. He was a Private, in the Northamptonshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion and his battalion was posted to France in November 1914.

He died on 29th December 1914, aged 37. It is not clear in which battle (if any – they were in a trench warfare environment), but his grave is one of only 192 soldiers' graves in the cemetery at Beuvry Communal Extension, 3 km East of Bethune in the Pas de Calais, Northern France.



### **LESLIE JOHN ROBINSON Captain**

Son of Rev. W Robinson, vicar of East Haddon, and husband of Louisa Sophia Robinson, of 319, Woodstock Rd., Oxford. A graduate from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, he was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Northamptonshire Regiment in 1903. He was an excellent shot for which he won many trophies and was also a successful member of his Regiment's athletic team.

As a Captain in the 2nd Battalion of his Regiment, he went to France and Flanders in November 1914. He died on 12 March 1915, aged 31, at the battle of Neuve Chapelle. His grave is at the Canadian Cemetery No 2 in Neuville-St.-Vaast, in the Pas de Calais region 6 km north of Arras.

He is also commemorated on a brass plate on the south wall of East Haddon church. He left behind his widow, and twins Anthony and Diana, born 6th March 1915, just 6 days before he was killed.



### **ALBERT (ARCHIBALD HUGH) de VILLE Private Leicestershire Yeomanry**

His correct name was Archibald Hugh de Ville. He lived in Market Harborough with his 2 young brothers and 3 sisters and worked on his father's farm. At the start of the war, he enlisted in the Leicestershire Yeomanry – not the Northamptonshire Regiment as it says on the War Memorial.

He died on 13 May 1915, aged 23, still as a private, and not Lance Corporal as shown on the War Memorial. His name appears on the Menin Gate Memorial (panel 5) in Ypres. At his death, his parents Charles and Georgina lived in Peckleton in Leicestershire. It is unclear why he appears on the War Memorial in East Haddon.



### **WILLIAM AMOS WATSON Private 10929**

In the 1901 census William was living with his father Amos and mother Agnes in East Haddon, but he was no longer there in 1911. He joined the Grenadier Guards as a private in the 1st Battalion, was posted to France when war broke out, and was killed on 15th May, 1915, aged 32.

He is commemorated on panel 2 of the Le Touret Memorial in the Pas de Calais. The Le Touret Memorial commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in late September 1915 and who have no known grave. This part of the Western Front was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war.

He was survived by his mother Agnes, a brother and granddaughter, still living in East Haddon, but his father had died between 1911 and 1915.



## FRANK CADMAN Private 26497

Born in East Haddon in 1885, Frank was the son of Mary and William Cadman of 30 The Terrace. He was unmarried and was employed as a domestic groom. He joined the 10th battalion, the Suffolk Regiment (unclear why the Suffolk Regiment since he was living in East Haddon), when he signed up at the start of the war.

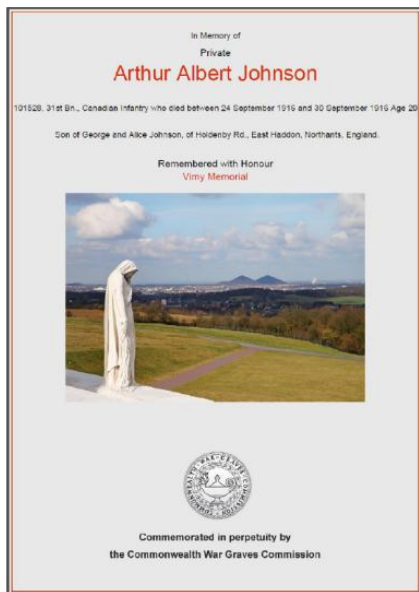
He died on 6 May, 1916 age 30, and his body was returned to England, for burial in the cemetery at East Haddon: by this time his father had died, and his mother attended the burial. (The 'twgpp' website records his having died of heart failure).

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) lists him as having a "special memorial" which is his grave in East Haddon cemetery.

## ALBERT ARTHUR JOHNSON Private 101528

At the time of the 1911 census Albert was a 14-year-old living in Holdenby Road, East Haddon, with his parents George & Alice Johnson. Susan Bruce (Alberts great great niece) writes: (edited)

"I noted with interest that the East Haddon War Memorial includes the name of Arthur Albert Johnson who was my great-great uncle. I thought that you might be interested in the following.



He was indeed fighting with the Alberta division of the Canadian Infantry having emigrated to Canada with two of his brothers prior to the beginning of the war. I heard from a Canadian relative that he was homesick and thought that by joining up he'd be sent to England and able to get home to see his mum. Sadly, this was not to be. He was sent to France and killed between 24/30 September 1916, aged 20, in a battle north of Courcellette, around Vimy and Ypres

He is actually commemorated on the Vimy Memorial and I've attached the Commonwealth War Office memorial record of this. I visited the Vimy Memorial four years ago and it was quite a moving experience as it was almost 100 years since his death."

### **WILLIAM FARN Private 178160**

He was saddler's apprentice to his father Walter Farn, and is shown as living in West Haddon, aged 15, in the 1901 census records.

By 1911 William had left (probably gone to Canada). He was married to Ivy, a Canadian girl, and he joined the Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment). The regiment was moved to England when war came and then crossed to France as part of the 11th Brigade. He died in the Battle of the Somme between 20 and 21 October 1916, age 23, and was buried in the Adanac Military Cemetery at Miraumont, northwest of Amiens, France.

His father and divorced mother lived on in Northampton, and his wife Ivy in Ontario, Canada.



### **HARRY DODD Private 28323**

His parents, Charles and Emma, were living in Kent in the 1911 census, but their son Harry, 22 years old, was not with them. He joined up as a private in the 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was sent to France, and died on 18 February, 1917, aged 28 at the Battle of the Somme.

His father was still living in Canterbury, Kent. Harry was married, and left behind his widow Edith, of Clifton Terrace, East Haddon. He is buried in the Bray Military Cemetery, east of Amiens in the Department of Somme in France.



### **JAMES WILLIAM GARRETT Private 16908**

On the 1911 census, the Garretts of Main Street, East Haddon, still had 11 of their children living at home. James, their eldest, was then 14, and it seems he was not living at home. He was born in 1899 so would have been 15 when the war started . Conscription started in 1916 when he was 17, and he joined the 2nd Battalion, the Northamptonshire Regiment where he served as a private.

He died in the battle of the Somme on 4th March, 1917, aged just 18. He has no known grave, but he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, NW of Amiens, France, together with 72,000 other soldiers from Britain and South Africa.



### **EDGAR NEVINS BRAMSDON Lance Corporal 47616**

Edgar was born in 1873 and lived in Market Harborough. He served in the 9th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment as a Lance Corporal – it is unclear why the Suffolk Regiment. His wife was born in Yelvertoft and was living in East Haddon Grange when her husband died.

Edgar died on 16 March 1917, aged 35, and lies in the Vermelles British Cemetery, in the Pas de Calais, France, one of some 2000 war dead buried there.

Edgar left behind a wife and three children.



### **SPENCER GWILLIAM DAVID Private 145597**

Born in 1893 in St. Mellons, Wales, the 1911 census shows him living in 1911 at the house of Anne Amelia Jones, in East Haddon, where he was a servant. He joined the 1st Battalion, the Northamptonshire Regiment, and died in France on 11th April 1917.

His grave is in the Duisans British Cemetery at Etrun, Pas de Calais, France, alongside over 3,000 other British and Commonwealth soldiers. Most of the graves relate to the Battles of Arras which began on 9th April 1917, Easter Sunday that year, and the trench warfare that followed. There are also 88 German war graves in this cemetery.



### **GEORGE PYLE Private 31251**

In the 1911 census, Anna Pyle, a single woman, lived with her 14-year-old only son, George, and no-one else, in Vicarage Lane, East Haddon. George joined the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment – presumably as soon as he was old enough - and died on 18 June 1917 aged just 20.

He lies buried in the Oostende New Communal Cemetery, Belgium. The cemetery contains only 50 burials of the First World War but also holds some 300 from WW2. The Commonwealth plots at Oostende New Communal Cemetery contain and 366 from the Second World War, 75 of the latter unidentified. The plots also contain eight war graves of other nationalities.



### **JAMES EDWARD BASKOTT 2nd Lieutenant Military Medal**

Brother of Edward Baskott, also killed in WW1, and also commemorated on East Haddon War Memorial. In the 1911 census, James did not appear, although his parents Walter and Elizabeth Baskott, of East Haddon are shown, with one son (presumably his brother) and 2 daughters – perhaps James was away from home at the time.

James served as 2nd Lieutenant, 193rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. From his army death record, James must have been born in 1890, making him 21 in 1911, and hence eligible to join the army. He died of wounds on 11th December 1917, aged 27, and lies buried in Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium, leaving his parents and 2 sisters in East Haddon.



### **WILLIAM CHARLES COLE Private 202230**

William was born in 1894 and is recorded in the 1911 census living in East Haddon with his parents and working on a farm in Long Buckby.

He enlisted in the 4th Battalion, the Yorkshire Regiment (the Green Howards), and went to fight in France. He died of wounds on 15th April, 1918, aged 24, and was buried in the Anzac Cemetery at Sully-sur-Lys in the Pas de Calais, France, one of 320 WW1 dead. He left behind his parents, 2 brothers, and 3 sisters.



### **EDWARD BASKOTT Private 54685**

Brother of James Edward Baskott, also killed in WW1, and also commemorated on East Haddon War Memorial. The son of Walter and Elizabeth Baskott, of East Haddon, Edward worked as a gardener.

He is described in war records as 'a native of Rugby', so it is possible that he was living in Rugby at the time of his joining the army. Having joined the Royal Fusiliers 34th Battalion as a Private, he was later transferred to the 101st Labour Corps. It is unclear what work was involved, but he died on 14/15th May 1918, age 23 from gas poisoning.

He lies buried in the St. Sever Cemetery Extension near to Rouen. This was away from the centre of activities in the war, but was a major centre for wounded, so it is possible that he was there being treated for the results of gas poisoning.



### **JAMES CADD Private 131422**

In the 1911 census, James was 12 years old, living with his parents Henry James and Mary Cadd, at 28, The Terrace, East Haddon, along with his 2 younger brothers and 2 sisters. Therefore, he was born in 1899 and was only 15 when war broke out.

He was conscripted as a private into the Machine Gun Corps, which had been formed in 1915 (it was the predecessor to the Tank Regiment). He died on 29th July, 1918, age 19, and lies buried in the Raperie British Cemetery, Villemonnaie, east of Reims. This cemetery contains 612 burials, all men from the UK.



## **ERNEST EDWARD THOMPSON 2nd Lieutenant Royal Garrison Artillery**



Edward and Emily Thompson, who were both teachers at East Haddon school, had three children, all born in East Haddon: Ernest Edward (b.17/1/1884) the eldest, his brother William and his sister Emily.

Ernest went to St John's College, Cambridge, in October 1903 at the age of 19. He was a member of the debating society, and the chess club in which he served as secretary and vice president. Throughout his life he was a keen sportsman, playing cricket for Northampton County and for St John's college Cambridge.

In September 1906, after graduating from Cambridge, Ernest became a teacher at Banham Grammar School. Here he stayed until 1909 when Banham School merged with Thetford School.

In July 1914 Ernest became Headmaster of Diss secondary School. By May 1917 Ernest was in the Artist's Rifles Officer training Corps. On 11 March 1918 with his training complete, he became a second lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery. On 26th September 1918 he joined the 228th Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery in France. His job as a second lieutenant was to command a crew of ten gunners allocated to one of the six six-inch howitzers in the battery. They were often the target of heavy German fire.

On 16th October, having been continuously in action since the 3rd October, Ernest was killed by enemy fire whilst in action near the northern French town of Le Cateau. Five members of the battery were standing round the centre pole of a small dug out in the bank of a road near the battery. A shell exploded in the road and a piece of shrapnel struck Ernest in the head, and he was killed instantly.

Ernest had been in France for just 3 weeks when he was killed.

Besides East Haddon war memorial, Ernest is also commemorated at St John's College Cambridge, on Diss War memorial, and on his grave in Maurois Communal cemetery in France.

## **CHARLES RICHARD PARKER Air Mechanic 3rd class (ie Private), F Section, RAF 305144**

Charles Richard Parker served in the newly created RAF, formed 1 April 1918, from the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Flying Corps. He died aged 18 on 18 October 1918 at Blandford Camp, Dorset (which was an intake camp), less than a month before the end of the war.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) lists him as having a 'special memorial', which is his grave in East Haddon cemetery. This is marked by a 'broken column' headstone, which traditionally represents a life cut short. The organ in East Haddon church was given in his memory.

### **WALTER HAMMANDS HADLEY Sergeant G/20295 Military Medal**

Walter was born in 1882, in East Haddon. By the 1911 census he was boarding in Watford at the house of Henry Woodstock and working as a railway porter. His father Harry was a platelayer, living in Holdenby Road, East Haddon.

He joined the Royal Sussex Regiment, and by the time of his death at the age of 35 on 4th November 1918 (just 7 days before the end of the war) had reached the rank of sergeant. He was awarded the Military Medal. He is buried in Villers-Pol Communal Cemetery extension in France.



### **RUPERT VICTOR DENNISON Lance Corporal**



Rupert served with the 11th Battalion, Essex Regiment. The 1911 census records show Rupert as a 13-year-old schoolboy, living in East Haddon with his parents, 3 sisters and a younger brother.

He joined the Essex Regiment at the start of the war and rose to the rank of Lance Corporal. He died after the war had ended, on 23rd March 1919, aged 21, as a result of injuries (gas poisoning) received in France, and is buried in East Haddon cemetery. His headstone is the 'standard' type used in all CWGC sites around the world.

### **WILLIAM SIMS Engine Room Artificer 4th Class P/MX 60184**

William Sims served in the Royal Navy and was lost on HMS Hood. It is assumed his loss occurred when 'Hood' was sunk by the German battleship 'Bismark' on 24th May 1941, although his loss is listed on the village War Memorial as 1939. He died age 21.

Born in London on 29th February 1920, William was the son of Harry and Maude Sims. The family lived in Chobham, Surrey. Before joining up, William was employed as a groom at Priestwell House in East Haddon. William is memorialised on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, and also at the Hood Chapel in the church of St John, Boldre, Hampshire.



### **RONALD HENRY GARDENER Aircraftsmen 2<sup>nd</sup> Class 3039138**

Ronald Gardener (listed by Commonwealth War Graves Commission as "Gardner") was the son of Cecil William and Mary Elizabeth Gardener, of East Haddon. He served in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, and although the village war memorial shows his loss as 1945, he in fact died on 3rd June 1946, aged just 19. He lies buried in the Kirkee War Cemetery, in India. Kirkee, also known as Khadki, is a Military Cantonment adjoining the large university town of Poona on the Plateau above Bombay.

The war cemetery there was created to receive Second World War graves from the western and central parts of India where their permanent maintenance could not be assured. The cemetery contains 1,668 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War. The 'Kirkee Memorial' stands within the cemetery and commemorates more than 1,800 servicemen who died in India during the First World War.

