

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

ORTON WATERVILLE WAR MEMORIALS

ORTON WATERVILLE, ST MARY THE VIRGIN

CHURCH DRIVE, ORTON WATERVILLE, PETERBOROUGH, PE2 5HE

ORDNANCE SURVEY REFERENCE: TL156 961



*“When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For their tomorrow, we gave our today”*

(Attributed to John Maxwell Edmonds 1875-1958)

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The aim of this memorial booklet is to provide some information regarding the people of Orton Waterville who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, and whose names are inscribed on the parish war memorials.

The following pages have been compiled from information and records held by a number of organisations, including the General Register Office, The National Archives, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, plus various publications

This booklet has been written as a personal project and is not endorsed by any of the above organisations.

Some details have been extracted from regimental and historical websites, including amongst others “The Long, Long Trail” at [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) (which has details of the deployment of Army units during World War 1). All of the websites mentioned within the booklet are free to view.

Whilst care has been taken that the details within this booklet have been accurately transcribed, they are subject to the reader’s own verification from original records.

I apologise sincerely for any error it may contain.

Memorial 1

The parish war memorial is situated behind the church, on the north side of the churchyard.  
(UK National Inventory of War Memorials reference: 3456)



It stands approximately 12 feet high, and was carved in Portland stone by Messrs Stephens of Eastfield Road, Peterborough.

It consists of a cross set above an octagonal column, which sits upon a plinth bearing the inscriptions from World Wars 1 and 2. The plinth is set upon a three-stepped base.

The memorial was unveiled, by Brigadier General W. Strong, just before evensong on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1921. The dedication was performed by the Reverend S. Rogerson.  
The unveiling ceremony was reported on page 5 of the Peterborough and Hunts Standard, issued on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1921.

The newspaper reported that the hymn sung was “O God, our help in ages past”. After a speech by Brigadier General Strong, he unveiled the memorial, which was then dedicated by the Rector. The Last Post was sounded by Mr A. E. Foster.

At the end of the ceremony, flowers were laid at the foot of the memorial, including tributes from some of the families of those who had died.



The north face of the memorial has a red granite tablet, which bears an inscription relating to World War 1:



The inscription reads:

REMEMBER, LAWRENCE ARTHUR BARKER, HAROLD ARTHUR HILLSON, WILLIAM MARK HILLSON, STANLEY EDWARDS HODSON, HARRY HOLLEY, GEORGE JACKSON, FREDERICK JACKSON, WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR. 1914 - 1918, R.I.P., ST JOHN, XV, 13.

The west face of the memorial has an inscription to those who died in World War 2:



The inscription reads:

1939-1945, ARTHUR G BROUGHTON, ALEC C CASS, CYRIL E CLARK, ALPHONSO K GRANT, LEONARD SAMPSON, H GEORGE WALKER, R.I.P.



### Memorial 2

Within the north section of the churchyard is a memorial relating to Harry Holley:



The inscription reads:

HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY. IN LOVING MEMORY OF HARRY, BELOVED HUSBAND OF LOUIE HOLLEY, WHO FELL IN ACTION IN FRANCE SEP 10 1915, AGED 27 YEARS. WAITING ABOVE. SOMEDAY WE SHALL MEET AGAIN.

### Memorial 3

In the far north-east corner of the churchyard is a Commonwealth War Grave Commission headstone relating to Alec C Cass:



The stone bears the regimental badge of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, and the inscription reads:  
14301052 TROOPER A.C. CASS, 2<sup>ND</sup> NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YEO., ROYAL ARMOURD CORPS  
25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1943 AGE 20. TIME PASSES BUT HIS MEMORY STILL REMAINS.

#### Memorial 4

Within the church, on the south wall of the chancel, there is a memorial plaque to Royston Cecil Gamage Du Plessis Le Blond:



The inscription reads:

IN GLORIAM DEI MAIOREM  
ET IN MEMORIUM  
ROYSTON CECIL GAMAGE DU PLESSIS LE BLOND  
NATI AD XXVI KAL APR MDCCCLXXXVII MORTUI AD XVII MAI MCMXV  
SCHOLARIS WESTMONASTERIENSIS  
COLL SANCT TRIN APUD CANTAB PENSIONARI  
ARTIUM BACCALAUREI  
INTER ADVOCATOS TEMPLI INTERIOSIS ADMISSI  
A PUERO POETARUM  
ET ARTIUM ERUDITORIUM STUDIOSSIMUS  
INGENIO BONO ET AMABILI INDOLE  
OMNIUM ANIMOS SIBI CONCILIAVIT  
BELLO INGENTI  
A BRITANNIS CONTRA GERMANOS SUSCEPTO  
HIC STATIM SE PATRIAE  
LAETUS LIBENSQUE OBTULIT  
ET ECENTURIONE CITO FACTUS TRIBUNIS  
12<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION THE RIFLE BRIGADE  
MORTE NIMIS IMMATURA OBIIT

## Memorial 1: World War 1 casualties

### Lawrence Arthur BARKER

Lawrence was born in 1888 in Buckden/Southoe, Cambridgeshire. He was the son of John and Louisa Barker.

On the 1891 census he was living with his parents in Alconbury.

By the 1901 census the family had moved to Orton Waterville.

On the 1911 census Lawrence was working as a farm labourer and living with his parents in Orton Waterville.

Lawrence enlisted at Bedford as a Private with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. His regimental number was 27713. He was recorded as living in Orton Waterville when he enlisted.

[The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment served in Felixstowe with the Harwich Garrison until July 1916. On 25/7/1916 it was sent to Le Havre, France and was placed under the command of the 190<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 63<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Naval) Division. That Division fought on the Western Front for the rest of the war.

On 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April 1917 the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment took part in the Battle of Arleux (part of the Arras Offensive). Details from the Long, Long Trail website: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) ].

Lawrence was killed in action on 29/4/1917, aged 28. He has no known grave.

He is commemorated on Bay 5 of the Arras Memorial in France, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database, which can be viewed at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

Lawrence was awarded the Victory and British medals.

### Harold Arthur HILLSON

Harold was born in Eye, Northamptonshire in about 1892. He was the son of John and Emily Hillson. (Harold was the brother of William Hillson- see next entry).

The family moved to Orton Waterville in about 1896.

On the 1901 census he was living with his parents in Orton Waterville. (He was recorded as "Arthur H").

Harold enlisted in Peterborough as a Private (Bandsman) with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. His regimental number was 9639. He was recorded as living in Orton Waterville when he enlisted.

On the 1911 census Harold was recorded at Malplaquet Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire, serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordshire Regiment. His age was recorded as 19.

[The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment was in Mullingar in Ireland at the outbreak of World War 1. It was part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. It was sent to France on 15/8/1914 to fight on the Western Front.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade took part in the Battle of Nonne Bosschen, which began on 11/11/1914 (part of the first Battle of Ypres). Details from the Long, Long Trail: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) ]

Harold was killed in action on 14/11/1914 in Belgium. He has no known grave.

He is commemorated on Panels 31 and 33 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

Harold was awarded the Victory, British and 1914 Star medals.



## William Mark HILLSON

(Brother of Harold- see previous page)

William was born in 1898 in Orton Waterville. He was the son of John and Emily Hillson. On the 1901 and 1911 census he was living with his parents in Orton Waterville. On the 1911 census he was working as a farm labourer.

He enlisted at Peterborough as a Private with the Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion. His regimental number was 975.

He was later transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment (regimental number 30177).

[The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment joined the 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, and fought on the Western Front until November 1917.

On 9/10/1917 the 7<sup>th</sup> Division took part in the Battle of Poelcapelle (one of the Battles of Ypres). Information from the Long, Long Trail: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) ]

William was killed in action on 9/10/1917 in Belgium. He has no known grave.

He is commemorated on Panels 23-28 and 163A of the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) . The database records him as being the "Son of Mr J.T. and Mrs E. Hillson, of Orton Waterville".

William was awarded the Victory and British medals.

## Stanley Edwards HODSON

Stanley was born in 1895 in Nassington. He was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Hodson.

By the 1901 census the family had moved to Belsize Avenue, Woodston, Peterborough.

On the 1911 census Stanley was living with his parents at 242, Oundle Road, Woodston. He was working as a coachbuilder.

Stanley enlisted at Peterborough with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment. His Medal Index Card recorded him as being a Private on enlistment.

He was later promoted to Corporal within the same regiment. His regimental number was 15233.

Stanley was sent to France on 25/7/1915.

[ The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment was part of the 54<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division. It was sent to France in July 1915 and served on the Western Front for the rest of the war.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1916 the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division took part in the Battle of Bazentin (one of the Battles of the Somme). Information from the Long, Long Trail: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) ]

Stanley was killed in action on 14/7/1916 in France. He has no known grave.

He is commemorated on the Pier and Faces 11A and 11D of the Thiepval Memorial in France, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) . The database records him as being the "Son of Charles and Elizabeth Hodson, of Orton Waterville".

Stanley was awarded the Victory, British and 1915 Star medals.

## Harry HOLLEY

Harry was born in 1888 in Orton Waterville. He was the son of John and Sarah Holley. On the 1891, 1901 and 1911 census Harry was living with his parents in Orton Waterville. On the 1911 census Harry was working as a railway platelayer. He was unmarried.

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database and the memorial headstone in Orton Waterville churchyard, Harry was married to “Louie” by the time he died.  
(There is no record of a marriage between Harry Holley and “Louie”. It is likely that he was the Harry Holley who married Emma Louisa Loomes in 1915 in the Northampton District).

Harry enlisted in Colchester as a Lance Sergeant in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment. He gave his place of birth as Orton Waterville when he enlisted. His regimental number was 17426. He was sent to France on 26/7/1915.

[The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment was part of the 54<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division. It was sent to France in July 1915 and served on the Western Front for the rest of the war. (Information from the Long, Long Trail: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) )]

On 3rd September 1915 the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment marched from Mericourt L’Abbe to Meaulte in France. On the 9<sup>th</sup> September it took up position in the trenches. In the course of the next seven days the Battalion suffered 7 deaths and 14 wounded. (Information from the War Diary of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment, held by The National Archives).

Harry Holley is recorded as having died of wounds on 10/9/1915, aged 27. He was buried in Plot 1, Row A, Grave 30 at the Corbie Communal Cemetery in France, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) . The database records him as being the “Son of John George and Sarah Holley, of Orton Waterville, near Peterboro’; husband of Louie Holley, of 11, Essex St., Northampton”.

Harry was awarded the Victory, British and 1915 Star medals.

As well as being named on the parish memorial, there is an individual memorial to Harry behind St Mary’s Orton Waterville. The inscription reads: -

“HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY.  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
HARRY,  
BELOVED HUSBAND OF  
LOUIE HOLLEY,  
WHO FELL IN ACTION IN FRANCE  
SEP 10 1915,  
AGED 27 YEARS.  
WAITING ABOVE. SOMEDAY WE  
SHALL MEET AGAIN”

(See photograph of Memorial 2 in earlier pages)

“A short history of Orton Waterville”, written by F.G. Killingworth, can be viewed on the Orton Waterville Parish Council website: [www.ortonwatervilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.ortonwatervilleparishcouncil.org.uk) .On page 19 of that document is a photograph of the Orton Park cricket team, taken in 1906. One of the players in the photograph is named as “H. Holley”. The only “H. Holley” living in the village at the time, according to census returns, was Harry. He is therefore almost certainly the young man in the photograph.

### Frederick JACKSON

Frederick was born in 1899 in Newborough. He was the son of Robert and Eliza Jackson, and the brother of George (below).

On the 1901 census he was living with his parents in Willow Drove, Newborough. Between 1901 and 1911 the family moved to Haddon.

On the 1911 census Frederick was living with his parents at The Grange, Haddon.

“Fred” Jackson enlisted at Huntingdon as a Private. He gave his place of birth as Newborough.

He was initially attached to the Training Reserve Battalion (regimental number TR/10/7290), before being transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King’s Royal Rifle Corps as a Rifleman (regimental number A/205093).

[The 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion King’s Royal Rifle Corps was attached to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in the 14<sup>th</sup> (Light) Division. It landed at Boulogne on 20/5/1915 and served on the Western Front throughout the war.

From 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March 1918 the Division took part in the Battle of St Quentin (one of the Battles of the Somme), during which it suffered heavy casualties. (From the Long, Long Trail: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) )].

Frederick was killed in action on 21/3/1918.

He is commemorated on Urvillers German Cemetery Memorial 29 at the St Souplet British Cemetery in France, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

[Fourteen soldiers from the 14<sup>th</sup> (Light) Division were buried at Urvillers Military Cemetery in March 1918. When the St Souplet British Cemetery was opened in October 1918, graves were brought in to that cemetery from the surrounding battlefields and a number of smaller burial grounds, including the Urvillers Military Cemetery. Special memorials were erected at St Souplet to commemorate the 55 soldiers who had been buried in other cemeteries, but whose graves could not be found. (Information from the Commonwealth War Grave Commission). Frederick Jackson was one of those 55 soldiers].

Frederick was awarded the Victory and British medals.

### George JACKSON

George was born in 1895 in Newborough. He was the son of Robert and Eliza Jackson, and the brother of Frederick (above).

On the 1901 census he was living with his parents in Willow Drove, Newborough.

On the 1911 census he was living with his parents at The Grange, Haddon, and working on a farm.

George married Hilda Emily Webb in 1914 in the Peterborough District. They had two sons: one born in 1915 and the other (Cyril Townsend Jackson) born in 1916. George enlisted at Bedford as a Private. He gave his place of birth as Newborough and his home address as Haddon. He was initially assigned to the 3/5<sup>th</sup> Bedfordshire Regiment (regimental number 203294).

He later transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment (regimental number 204351).

[The 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment was attached to the 122 Infantry Brigade in the 41<sup>st</sup> Division. It landed at Le Havre on 2/5/1916 and remained on the Western Front until October 1917.

From 20<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> September 1917 it took part in the Battle of the Menin Road (one of the Battles of Ypres).

On the 21<sup>st</sup> September it was engaged in fighting in the area of Tower Hamlets. (From the Long, Long Trail: [www.1914-1918.net](http://www.1914-1918.net) )].

George was killed in action on 21/9/1917, aged 22. He has no known grave.

He is commemorated on panel 79-80 and 163A of the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) . The database records him as being the “Husband of Hilda Emily Jackson, of Hardwicke Lane, Abbotsley, St Neots, Hunts”.

George was awarded the Victory and British medals.

Although I have been unable to confirm how the above brothers were linked to Orton Waterville, I believe they are the men named on the memorial.

When the Orton Waterville war memorial was unveiled in 1921, tributes were left to “our dear brothers George and Fred Jackson” from their siblings: Harry Jackson, Maud Grammer (nee Jackson) and Joe Jackson. The only Jackson family recorded on census with five siblings called George, Frederick, Harry, Maud and Joe (Joseph) was the one that lived in Newborough and Haddon.

(Joe Jackson may have been the “J. Jackson” who played for the Orton Park Cricket Club in 1906).



## Memorial 1: World War 2 Casualties

### Arthur G BROUGHTON

Arthur was born in 1922. His birth was registered in the Peterborough District as “Arthur G Broughton”. He was the son of Samuel Broughton and Sarah nee Hilliard. He is believed to have been their only child.

He served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve as an Aircraftsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class. His service number was 1428132. (He served under the name “George Arthur Broughton”).

He died on 29/7/1942 in Egypt, aged 20.

He is buried in grave 2F 10 at the Fayid War Cemetery in Egypt, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) . The database records him as “George Arthur Broughton”, “Son of Samuel and Sarah Broughton, of Orton Waterville, Huntingdonshire”.

### Alec C CASS

Alec was buried in Orton Waterville churchyard, but his exact link to the village is unknown.

Alec was born in 1923. His birth was registered in the Peterborough District. His mother was Marjorie Cass nee Parker. His father is believed to have been Vyner Cass.

Alec enlisted as a Trooper with the Royal Armoured Corps, and was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northamptonshire Yeomanry RAC. His service number was 14301052.

According to the War Office: Roll of Honour, Second World War, Alec served in the UK.

Alec died on 25/12/1943, aged 20. His death was registered in the Buckrose District, Yorkshire in the March quarter of 1944.

He was buried at St Mary’s church, Orton Waterville. There is a Commonwealth War Grave Commission headstone bearing his name in the far north-east corner of the churchyard. (See photograph of Memorial 3 in earlier pages).

The Commonwealth War Grave Commission database records him as the “Son of Marjorie Cass, of Northborough, Northampton” (see [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) ).

### Cyril E CLARK

The only “Cyril E Clark” recorded as having died in World War 2 in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database was Cyril Edward Clark, son of George William and Ellen Clark, and husband of Lily. His details are listed below. I have been unable to establish how he was linked to Orton Waterville.

Cyril Edward Clark was born about 1917. He was the son of George William and Ellen Clark. (He may have been the Cyril Clark who married Lily Heyes in 1936 in the Barnsley District).

Cyril served as a Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the Royal Navy. His service number was P/KX 97414.

Cyril died on 24/11/1941, aged 24.

He was serving aboard the HMS Dunedin when it was struck by two torpedoes from a U-boat and sank off the coast of Brazil, on 24/11/1941. Of the 486 people aboard, only 67 survived. Cyril was reported as being “Missing presumed killed”.

Cyril is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, on Panel 54 column 3.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission database ( [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) ) records him as being the “Son of George William and Ellen Clark; husband of Lily Clark”.

Cyril is also commemorated on the HMS Dunedin Memorial at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

There is a website with more details of the sinking of the HMS Dunedin at [www.hmsdunedin.co.uk](http://www.hmsdunedin.co.uk) .

## Alphonso K GRANT

There is only one “Alphonso Grant” listed in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database as having died during World War 2. His details are recorded below.

I have, so far, been unable to establish what his link to Orton Waterville was.

Alphonso Kinmont Grant was born about 1915. He gave his place of birth as Glasgow when he enlisted. I have not established who his parents were.

An “Alphonso K Grant” married Sarah Sanders in 1936 in the Oundle District. Given the uncommon forename, it appears quite likely that it was the same man.

According to the War Office: Roll of Honour, Second World War, Alphonso enlisted as a Private with the Pioneer Corps. He was living in Northampton at the time. His regimental number was 2184064. He was assigned to the 115 Company, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps.

Alphonso was killed in action in France on 17/6/1940, aged 25.

According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Alphonso is commemorated on Column 151 of the Dunkirk memorial in France. (See [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org) ).



Operation Dynamo had succeeded in evacuating many troops from Dunkirk between 27<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June 1940. After the 4<sup>th</sup> June, however, many British troops were still making their way across France towards the coast, hoping that ships would be waiting to evacuate them back to England.

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1940 two major incidents occurred in the north-west of France: the bombing of Rennes railway station, and the sinking of the HM Troopship Lancastria.

At about 10 am on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1940 a group of 4 or 5 trains, loaded with troops and refugees, was sitting at Rennes railway station when it came under attack from German bombers. One of the trains, which was carrying ammunition, exploded. The blast demolished the other trains and nearby buildings. The true number of lives lost in the incident is not known, but has been estimated as being in excess of 800.

In the afternoon of the same day, HM Troopship Lancastria was anchored off the coast of St Nazaire, taking part in Operation Aerial, the continued evacuation of troops. The ship was loaded far beyond its recommended capacity of 3000 people. The exact number of souls on board will probably never be known. Some reports estimate that as many as 9000 people may have been aboard.

Just before 4pm the ship came under attack from a German bombing raid. She sustained four direct hits (including one bomb that dropped down the funnel and exploded in the engine room), and sank within twenty minutes. The true number of lives lost is unknown: estimates vary from 4500 to 6000 deaths. It was the worst loss of life in a British ship ever recorded, according to the National Maritime Museum: [www.rmg.co.uk](http://www.rmg.co.uk)

The sinking of the Lancastria has been labelled the “Forgotten Tragedy”. The British media was prevented from reporting the incident at the time, in order to avoid damaging morale.

The National Archives has a report of the sinking of the Lancastria, viewable at:

[www.nationalarchives.co.uk/podcasts/loss-of-lancastria.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.co.uk/podcasts/loss-of-lancastria.htm)

(See also [www.lancastria.org.uk](http://www.lancastria.org.uk) , for reports of the bombing at Rennes and the sinking of the Lancastria).



Alphonso Grant was originally believed to have been one of those who died aboard the troopship Lancastria. However, later research carried out by Brian Crabb (author of *The Forgotten Tragedy*; the story of the loss of HMT Lancastria) indicates that Alphonso was one of those who had died in the bomb attack at Rennes railway station, earlier in the day. Alphonso is listed as one of 78 men whose unidentifiable remains were buried in the communal plot of Rennes Eastern cemetery.

## Leonard SAMPSON

Leonard Sampson was born about 1919. He was the son of Ethel Sampson.

(He may have been the Leonard Sampson whose birth was registered in 1919 in Barnstaple District, Devon).

Leonard served with the Royal Navy as a Leading Telegraphist. His service number was C/JX 145023.

Leonard was serving aboard the destroyer HMS Kelly in 1941. The commander of the ship was Lord Louis Mountbatten.

The ship was taking part in the evacuation of Crete when she was bombed and sank on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1941. A total of 130 lives were lost (9 officers and 121 ratings).

Leonard died on 23/5/1941, aged 22.

He is commemorated on Panel 46, 1 of the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database. The database records him as being the “Son of Ethel Sampson, of Orton Waterville”. (See [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)).

Prince Charles planted a tree at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire in 2002, in memory of those who died on HMS Kelly.

Lord Louis Mountbatten wrote a detailed account of the sinking of HMS Kelly, which can be viewed at [www.navyhistory.org.au/the-loss-of-hms-kelly/](http://www.navyhistory.org.au/the-loss-of-hms-kelly/)

## H. George WALKER

Harold George Walker was born in 1916. (His birth was registered as “Harold George”, but it appears from the memorial inscription that he was known to his family as “George”). He was the son of Maurice and Annie Elizabeth Walker.

He served as a Sergeant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment, under the name “Harold G” Walker. His service number was 6022143.

Harold died on 26/2/1944 in Italy, aged 27.

He is buried in grave XVII, A, 19 of the Sangro River War Cemetery in Italy, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org). Their database records him as “Harold George Walker”, “Son of Maurice and Annie Elizabeth Walker, of Orton Waterville”.



Royston Cecil Gamage Du Plessis Le Blond

(Memorial 4: brass plaque within the church)

The inscription reads:-

“IN GLORIAM DEI MAIOREM  
ET IN MEMORIUM  
**ROYSTON CECIL GAMAGE DU PLESSIS LE BLOND**  
NATI AD XXVI KAL APR MDCCCLXXXVII. MORTUI AD XVII MAI MCMXV  
SCHOLARIS WESTMONASTERIENSIS  
COLL SANCT TRIN APUD CANTAB PENSIONARII  
ARTIUM BACCALAUREI  
INTER ADVOCATOS TEMPLI INTERIORIS ADMISSI  
A PUERO POETARUM  
ET ARTIUM ERUDITIONUM STUDIOSISSIMUS  
INGENIO BONO ET AMABILI INDOLE  
OMNIUM ANIMOS SIBI CONCILIAVIT  
BELLO INGENTI  
A BRITANNIS CONTRA GERMANOS SUSCEPTO  
HIC STATIM SE PATRIAE  
LAETUS LIBENSQUE OBTULIT  
ET ECENTURIONE CITO FACTUS TRIBUNIS  
12<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION THE RIFLE BRIGADE  
MORTE NIMIS IMMATURA OBIIT”

~~~~~  
Royston Le Blond was born on 26/4/1887 in Norbiton, Kingston Upon Thames. He was the son of Francis Aubrey Le Blond and Mary (nee Rigg).

On the 1891 census he was living with his parents at Victoria Villa, Kingston upon Thames.

On the 1901 census he was a scholar at the Abbey School, Brackley Road, Beckenham, Kent.

According to the *Record of Old Westminsters, 1927, Volume 2*, Royston was admitted to Westminster School as a King's scholar in September 1901.

After leaving school, he attended Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated from Trinity as a Bachelor of Arts in 1909.

He was later admitted to the Inner Temple.

On the 1911 census Royston was living with his brother at Barming House, East Barming, Maidstone, Kent. He was working as an articled clerk to a solicitor.

He joined the 12th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade as 2nd Lieutenant on 25/9/1914. He was promoted to Temporary Captain in January 1915.

Royston died on 17/5/1915 in the Salisbury District. He was buried at the Brompton Cemetery, London in grave B.R. 169128.

(He was recorded as “Royston” Le Blond in the Birth Index 1887, “*Record of Old Westminsters*”, on the memorial plaque in Orton Waterville and on his gravestone in Brompton. However, he was recorded as “Robert” Le Blond on all of his Army records, including his entry in “*Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*”, “Medal Index Card” and Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry. All of the records relate to the same man).

Royston's mother's maiden name was Mary Rigg. Census records show that she was the sister of William Pace Rigg, who was the Rector of Orton Waterville from 1893 to 1917. As far as I have found, Royston himself had no particular link to Orton Waterville, other than being the nephew of William.

SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY INCLUDE:

Office for National Statistics (© Crown Copyright-see below)	England and Wales Civil Registration Index (General Register Office: Births/Marriages/Deaths Index)
The National Archives/Public Record Office (© Crown Copyright- see below)	Census returns of England and Wales: 1871, 1881, 1891 1901, 1911 WW1 Medal Index Cards: (WO 372) Army Service Records WW1: “Burnt Documents” (WO 363) War Diaries: (WO 95) War Office: Roll of Honour, Second World War (WO 304)
HMSO (© Crown Copyright-see below)	<i>Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919</i> , (pub 1920)
Peterborough Central Library	Peterborough and Hunts Standard, issued 1921
Barker, G.F. Russell. (Chiswick Press,1928)	<i>The Record of Old Westminster, 1927, vol 2</i>

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Other sources include the following websites:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: www.cwgc.org	(casualty database: burial/memorial details)
The Long, Long Trail: www.1914-1918.net	(details of deployment of Army units WW1)
www.ortonwatervilleparishcouncil.org.uk/history	(“A short history of Orton Waterville”)
www.hmsdunedin.co.uk	(details of the sinking of HMS Dunedin)
www.rmg.co.uk	(details of the sinking of HMT Lancastria)
www.nationalarchives.co.uk/podcasts/loss-of-lancastria.htm	(details of the sinking of HMT Lancastria)
www.lancastria.org.uk	(details of the bombing of the Lancastria and Rennes railway station)
www.navyhistory.org.au/the-loss-of-hms-kelly/	(Lord Louis Mountbatten’s account of the sinking of HMS Kelly)
www.sensationpress.com/bromptoncemetery14.htm	(image of Royston Cecil Gamage Du Plessis Le Blond’s gravestone in Brompton Cemetery)

*

St Mary’s church is in the Yaxley Deanery, in the Diocese of Ely.

The church has been listed as Grade 1 since 13/12/1957 by English Heritage. English Heritage reference: UID number 50266, list entry number 1166376. Details of its architecture can be viewed at www.english-heritage.org.uk

Its architecture is also described on pages 301 and 302 of *Pevsner Architectural Guides: Bedfordshire, Huntingdon and Peterborough*, published by Yale University Press: ISBN 0-300-09581-3