

## **St Mary's Church, Woughton on the Green Stories**

**Alfred Knopp** was a driver in the Army Service Corps (RAMC) attached to 23<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance. Born in Hackney, London, his mother died in 1896, and Alfred enlisted in the Royal West Surrey Regiment in London in May 1909. He was seventeen. Although his occupation was cook, he became a driver in the Army Service Corps in 1911. On 28<sup>th</sup> July 1917 he married Harriett Crannis at St George's Church, Campden Hill. Alfred died in Marseilles on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1918 of influenza and pneumonia and was buried in Marzargues War Cemetery, Marseilles, France.

**Frank Leonard Beckett** was a private in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Bucks Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. He was born in Waddesdon in 1885. He married Eleanor Warner in April 1909. They had three children, Thomas Herbert, Henry William and Rose Margaret Valentine and before the war Frank worked as a cow man. Frank enlisted at Aylesbury. Killed in action 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres. He was buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.

**William Charles Mansfield** was a private in the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion Machine Gun Corps. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1899 in Girton, Cambridge. He enlisted in Maidstone, initially in the London Regiment (41685). He was later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps (MGC). On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1918, the Machine Gun Corps was heavily involved in the Second Battle of the Somme, specifically supporting the British Fourth Army (III Corps) and the Advance to Victory. During the push to the Hindenburg Line, MGC units moved into assembly positions under heavy fire at 2:25 a.m., with barrages beginning at 4:45 a.m. During that day William was killed in action and is remembered on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

**Ernest Purcell** was a private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. He was born in Woughton on the Green in 1881 and married Rose Lee in 1908. They had two sons William and Arthur. Before the war he worked as a labourer in a sawmill and later as a labourer on a farm. Ernest enlisted in Bletchley and joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. The 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry was raised in Oxford in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Third New Army (K3), joining the 78<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 26<sup>th</sup> Division. After training on Salisbury Plain, the battalion served briefly in France (Sept-Nov 1915) before moving to the Salonika front, where it remained for the rest of the war, fighting in the Battle of Horseshoe Hill and the Battles of Doiran. Ernest died of wounds in Salonika 13<sup>th</sup> May 1917 and was buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.