

Water Stratford Stories

Francis John May was a Lance Sergeant in the 10th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment). Francis was born on 2nd October 1896 in Water Stratford, Buckinghamshire. He was the son of Peter and Betsy Watson May. His father was born in Shalstone, Buckinghamshire and his mother was born in Water Stratford.

In 1901 Francis was living with his parents and brothers Alfred and Leonard in Water Stratford, Buckinghamshire. His father was an agricultural labourer.

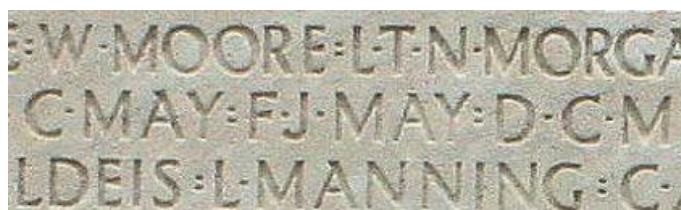
In 1906 Francis emigrated to Canada and in 1911 he was living in Wyundel, British Columbia, Canada and was working as a farmer.

On 20th February 1915 Francis married Phoebe Butterfield in Creston, British Columbia.

On 3rd March 1915 he enlisted in Victoria in the 10th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment).

On 5th June 1916 Francis was reported to be wounded.

On 15th August 1917, the 10th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment) participated in the opening assault of the Battle of Hill 70 near Lens, France. Advancing at 4:25 a.m., the "Fighting Tenth" successfully captured their initial high-ground objectives and repelled relentless German counterattacks. The 10th and 7th Battalions were assigned the highest points on Hill 70. They advanced behind a rolling artillery barrage and used new tactics, including oil drums that spread fire and smoke, to disorient German troops. Francis was killed in action on 15th August 1917 and is remembered on the Vimy Memorial.



Herbert George Cadd was a private in the 1/1st Battalion Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars. Herbert (Bert) was born in Islington, London in 1894. He was the son of Edwin John and Lydia Eliza Cadd (Johnson). His father was a boot repairer.

In 1901 Herbert was living with his grandparents Robert and Sarah Johnson in Water Stratford, Buckinghamshire. His grandfather was a wheelwright. His parents were living at 77 Grove Road, Islington.

In 1911 Herbert was working as a page in the home of Thomas and Mary Smith at Boycott Manor, Buckinghamshire.

On 11th December 1915, the 1/1st Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars (part of the 2nd Mounted Division) were in Egypt. After being dismounted and serving as infantry in Gallipoli, they had just evacuated the Dardanelles and were resting, while detachments actively engaged pro-Turkish Senussi Arab forces in the Western Desert. Herbert was killed in action on 11th December 1915 in Egypt and is buried in Alexandria (Chatby) Military & War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

Kenneth Borrodaile Henry was a Rifleman in the 13th Battalion Rifle Brigade. Kenneth was born in Harrow in 1895. He was the son of William and Annie Henry. His father was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and his mother was born in Ticknall, Derbyshire.

In 1901 Kenneth was living with his parents at 7 Camomile Street, London. His father was a wine merchant.

In 1911 Kenneth was living in the home of Francis and Winifred Young at 53 Ennismore Gardens, London. He was working as a footman.

On 12th July 1916, the 13th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade was positioned in the Tara-Usna Line near the Lochnagar Crater on the Somme battlefield. Having suffered severe casualties during their assault on Ovillers on 10th July, the battalion was actively reorganizing and holding trenches in a support capacity. Kenneth died of wounds on 12th July 1916 and is buried in Heilly Station Cemetery, Picardie, France.



Robert Gordon Sikes was a Lieutenant in the Leicestershire Yeomanry (4th Hussars). Robert was born in 1888 in Ilston on the Hill, Leicestershire. He was the son of James and Amy Elizabeth Sikes (Gilbert). His father was a corn merchant born in Ilston on the Hill and his mother was also born in Leicestershire.

In 1891 Robert was living with his parents and sister Mary at 35 Humberstone Road, Leicester.

On 12th July 1907 Robert departed from England aboard the RMS Ormuz for Brisbane, Australia. On 20th May 1909 he sailed from Brisbane to London aboard the Moravian. On 28th June 1917 he once again sailed, this time from England to Montreal, Canada. He enlisted at Port Arthur, Ontario in the Leicestershire Regiment.

He married Clementina Gwendoline Sikes in July 1918 in Buckingham, Buckinghamshire.

Robert died of pneumonia on 22nd February 1919 and is buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. At the time of his death his parents were living in Dawson Street, Port Arthur, Ontario.

Thomas Walter Pearson was a private in the 7th Battalion East Kent Regiment. Thomas was born in Water Stratford, Buckinghamshire in 1896. He was the son of Walter and Francis Catherine Pearson (Neal). His father was a carter on a farm born in Water Stratford and his mother was born in Tingewick, Buckinghamshire.

In 1901 Thomas was living with his parents and brother William at Water Stratford. His father was a carter on a farm.

In 1911 Thomas was living with his parents and brother William at Water Stratford. His father was a cowman on a farm and Thomas (though only fourteen) was a gardener.

He enlisted in Luton, Bedfordshire in the East Kent Regiment.

Thomas was taken as a prisoner of war in March 1917 and died in a German hospital at Channes, near Le Fere, France on 17th July 1918 and is buried in Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension, Aisne, France.

William James Hilsdon was a private in the 101st Battalion Machine Gun Corps. William was born in Water Stratford, Buckinghamshire in 1898. He was the son of William and Mary Ann Hilsdon (Nixey). Both his parents were born in Brill, Buckinghamshire.

In 1911 William was living with his parents, brothers Henry, Francis, Frederick, Albert and sisters Mary, Amy, Florence and Ada in Water Stratford. His father was a farmer and like two of his brothers William was working on the farm.

On 14th October 1918, the 101st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (formed from the amalgamation of the Berkshire Yeomanry and the Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars) was actively deployed on the Western Front. Having arrived in France in July, the battalion was serving as Army Troops attached to the 51st (Highland) Division, providing critical defensive and offensive fire support during the concluding weeks of the Hundred Days Offensive. William was killed in action on 14th October 1918 and is remembered in the Hooze Crater Cemetery.