

1914 - The CA goes to war



Thank you so much to those members who have contributed to the fund for repairing and refurbishing the CA War Memorial dedicated to the 12 members known to have been killed during the conflict. The Memorial tablet is now in the hands of experts in these matters, but at the time of writing the delicate and fine repair work required has not yet been completed. The full financial sum needed has not yet been reached either and further contributions would be much appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please contact Beryl Chalmers, General Manager, on 0207 537 2828 or email generalmanager@cruising.org.uk.

Martin Roberts has undertaken more research into the background of the members who died and has filled in a lot of the details. Some of the additional information he has discovered is given below and should be read in conjunction with the original article that appeared in *Cruising* June 2014. Full details of many of the incidents and battles, which led to their deaths, are available in official records and also unofficial ones accessible online. These paint a very dramatic picture of bravery and sacrifice under fire and earn our eternal thanks and respect.

CGA Burnett

Charles Burnett was the son of George Arbouin Burnett of Vauxhall, London

and the husband of Violet Burnett who came from Vanners, Byfleet in Surrey. He was killed on June 30, 1916 by an enemy mortar near Kemmel, six miles SW of Ypres in Belgium and is buried in La Laiterie Military Cemetery.

BC Child

Bernard Child came from London and was the son of Ernest and Ellen Child of Ivy Villa, Belling Road, Herne Bay in Kent. He was 28 when killed on November 1, 1914 serving on *HMS Monmouth* during the battle of Coronel off the west coast of Chile. The ship had been recommissioned from reserve in August 1914 and assigned to the 5th Cruiser Squadron in the Central Atlantic

to search for German commerce raiders and protect allied shipping. The ship was detached upon arrival to patrol the Brazilian coast for German ships and was later ordered to the South Atlantic to join Rear Admiral Christopher Cradock's squadron in a search for the German East Asia Squadron. The enemy was found on November 1 off the coast of Chile, but it outnumbered Cradock's force and its ships were individually more powerful and able to sink both *HMS Good Hope* and Child's ship *HMS Monmouth*. All hands were lost on both ships, a total of 1,600 men, including four Canadian midshipmen and the Admiral. Bernard Child is remembered on the War Memorial at Plymouth.



FL Coplestone

Frederick Lewis was the son of F Coplestone CBE, JP and Mrs Coplestone of Barrel Well House, Chester. He had become a Lieutenant Commander and was killed in action, aged 29, while serving on *HM Submarine D2*. He is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. *HMS D2* had taken part in the Battle of Heligoland Bight, but was rammed by a German patrol boat off Borkum and sank with all her 28 hands. Only two days before being sunk, her commanding officer had been washed overboard off Harwich and had to be replaced.

WHS Garnett (Note the extra "t" not shown on Memorial Board)

Walter Hugh Stewart, son of Dr William Garnett, late Educational Adviser to the L.C.C. was born 26 June 1891 in Bernieu. A midshipman on May 15, 1904, he qualified as a pilot on a Bristol Monoplane at the Bristol School, Larkhill, Salisbury Plain on September 10, 1913. He was previously a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy and served as a

Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps and General List. He died on September 21, 1916, aged 34 and is buried in Upavon Cemetery. He earned three medals.

H de B Grant

Humphrey Grant was the son of Colonel SCN Grant CB, CMG, CBE late of the Royal Engineers and Georgina Annie Louisa Grant, née de Butts, of Norton near Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. He married Elsie Grant, who later became Mrs Cockburn-Dickenson of Castellan Mansions, Maida Vale, London. He was killed on October 3, 1915 by enemy shellfire while serving with 'A' Battery of 63 Brigade Royal Field Artillery. This was a four-gun battery, part of the 12th Eastern Division, whose GOC and ADC were killed by the same enemy shell the day before.

OH Hanson

Born in Massworth, Buckinghamshire on October 20, 1873 the son of the Rev H Hanson of Bournemouth. Lieutenant Commander Oswald Hanson was 31 when he was killed. He was educated at Marlborough College and Trinity College,

Cambridge and qualified as a solicitor at Lincoln's Inn Field. He served in the Benbow Battalion of the Royal Naval Division. The eight infantry battalions, named after past naval commanders, were formed at the outbreak of the war from Royal Navy reservists and volunteers who were not needed for service at sea. They fought at Antwerp and Gallipoli. Oswald was executed while a prisoner of war on October 11, 1914 for warning others of a German ambush and buried at Dendermonde Communal Cemetery, along with 17 other Commonwealth casualties who also died while prisoners of war. His RNVR Long Service and Good Conduct medal was sold at auction on September 25, 2008.

VV Jacob

Lieutenant Victor Jacob served with the 2nd battalion of the Oxford & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry as part of 5 Brigade, 2 Division. He crossed to Boulogne on August 14, 1914, thus one of the first to arrive in France. His

battalion took part in a subsidiary attack at Givenchy at the start of the Loos Offensive suffering 263 casualties. He was killed while in action on September 25, 1914, possibly the first of the CA Members to die during the war, and is remembered at the Loos Memorial, which commemorates over 20,000 officers and men with no known grave.

CD Marshall

Devereux Marshall qualified as a FRCS and was a very experienced surgeon. He was attached to *HMS Dalhousie* when he died. This was an elderly paddle steamer built in 1886 and based in the Persian Gulf where she was the Base Guard Ship at Basra. Marshall would have been detached from her to serve in Baghdad as a Staff Surgeon RNVR. Baghdad had been liberated only six months earlier. Kirkee, where he is commemorated, is now known as Khadki, near Mumbai (Bombay). He was 51 when he died on September 14, 1918, the oldest of the CA casualties.

IM Mead

Ivor Mead was from Falmouth, Cornwall, the son of John and Joseph Mead. He was in the 47th Signal Company of Royal Engineers when he died aged 33. Westouter Churchyard and Extension, where he is buried, is at Heuvelland, 12km south-west of Ieper (Ypres).

GH Millar

Gilbert Millar lived on Hampstead Heath and enlisted on August 8, 1914 immediately after the war broke out, as a signaller RNVR in Benbow Battalion, Royal Naval Division. His brother was the Rev BE Millar. He was taken prisoner of war during the abortive expedition to defend Antwerp, but escaped from Doberitz, Germany and arrived back in the UK on September 29, 1915. He was then commissioned as a Lieutenant RNVR and

appointed as Lieutenant RNAS. He joined the RAF as a Captain Observer on its formation on April 1, 1918 and was killed aged 33, whilst flying as Observer in a Sopwith "1 ½" Strutter on April 29, 1918. The pilot, Lieutenant Henry Frank Mears aged 18, son of the late Henry Augustus Mears, founder of Chelsea Football Club, was also killed and is buried at Brompton Cemetery.

They had just joined from *RNAS East Fortune* to *HMS Furious* at Rosyth on April 3. At 17:29 hrs, having just taken off, and coming in to land, the aircraft "lost speed turning sharply in gusty wind and crashed". The biplane was from the world's first aircraft carrier or "aerodrome ship". The shipboard flyers were being trained in the Firth of Forth for the first ever sea-based attack on a land-based airship base at Tønder, Denmark. Their work was high risk – displacement currents and hot furnace gases from her funnel made landing a canvas-and-wood craft on a ship's deck notoriously tricky. The first successful flight of a two-seater from any British warship had only taken place on April 4. Indeed, only 11 landings were ever made on the rear deck of *HMS Furious*, only three of which were judged a complete success.

HMS Furious was a Courageous class light battle cruiser launched in 1916, but commissioned in June 1917 after being modified to become an aircraft carrier. Her forward turret had been removed and a 49m long flight deck added so that aircraft had to manoeuvre around the superstructure to land. Underneath was a hangar for 10 aircraft. In November 1917 she was further modified with her rear turret removed and a second flight deck 91m long installed aft of the superstructure. This was less than satisfactory due to air turbulence and she was modified again in March 1918 after which she flew anti-Zeppelin patrols in the North Sea. A quite remarkable ship,

HMS Furious was given a full-length flight deck in the early 1920s and went on to serve during the inter-war period and a very busy Second World War before being finally broken up in 1948 after more than 30 years active service.

BB Quiller Couch

Served continuously in Flanders and France in the 9th Battery of 41st Brigade, Royal Field Artillery from the beginning in August 1914 right through to the end and beyond. He earned both a DSO and MC, the latter in January 1916, when aged only 25, for ammunition resupply work. He was educated at Winchester and Cambridge University where he distinguished himself as a rower on the river. After hostilities had officially ended, he proposed marriage to Mary Cannan, who accepted him and the date was set for the wedding. He then led his battery into Germany with the army of occupation, but died of pneumonia, aged 28, in the great Spanish Influenza epidemic at Langerwehe near Düren in Germany. His DSO was gazetted on June 3, 1919 the date planned for his wedding.

ES Turner

Edwin Turner died of illness (Spanish Influenza?) on March 6, 1919 and is buried in Roby (St Bartholomew) Churchyard, Lancashire. Lieutenant Edwin S Turner served in the motor launch *HM ML360*. The vessel was one of a batch of 12 built by Elco in the USA. They were 80ft LOA, had a crew of 13 and may have had a diesel engine. Generally known as 'mosquito boats' they were maids of all work and *ML360* could have taken part in the famous Zeebrugge and Ostende raids where she would have provided a smokescreen and performed rescue work, but we have no further details.



Ted Osborn

