

Croydon and the Great War



On 4th August 1914, in response to German aggression in Europe, the United Kingdom declared war on Germany.

Over the next four years this war, “the War to end all Wars” was to be responsible for the deaths of about 700,000 British serving men and after the war had ended in 1918, in thousands of towns and villages throughout the country War Memorials were erected commemorating those who had not returned.

Croydon village was no exception – out of a population of nearly 250 men, women and children, 70 men had responded to the call to arms and on 14th January 1922 the Croydon War Memorial was unveiled and dedicated to the sixteen men who had lost their lives in the conflict.

The unveiling took place following a service in the church where the address was given by Canon S T Adams (Cambridge). A procession led by the Rector, Rev. T Lloyd MC, formerly Chaplain to the Forces, made its way to the Memorial which was unveiled by the Master of Downing College.



The front of the Memorial is inscribed with the words:

**TO
THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO FELL IN THE
GREAT WAR
FROM THE PARISH OF CROYDON**

**SONS OF THIS PLACE LET THIS OF YOU BE SAID
THAT YOU, WHO LIVE ARE WORTHY OF YOUR DEAD
THESE GAVE THEIR LIVES, THAT YOU WHO LIVE MAY REAP
A RICHER HARVEST ERE YOU FALL ASLEEP**

On the two side faces are inscribed the names and regiments of the sixteen men from the village who lost their lives and whose further details are listed below.

Private Albert William Chapman

16332, 11th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme and Commemorated on Pier and Face 1 C and 2 A of the Thiepval Memorial. Awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. Son of James Chapman of Croydon.

Private Walter Green

20135, 11th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 28th April 1917 in the Battle of Arras and commemorated on Bay 4 of the Arras Memorial. Awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. Son of Jonas and Mary Ann Green (Thacker) of Croydon.

Private Albert Green

15606, 11th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 1st July 1916 aged 21, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme and Commemorated on Pier and Face 1 C and 2 A of the Thiepval Memorial. Awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. Son of Jonas and Mary Ann Green(Thacker) of Croydon.

Lance Corporal Harry Albert Ingrey

3/8232 1st Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 24th April 1915 aged 21, at the beginning of the second battle of Ypres.

Commemorated on Panel 21 of the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium. Awarded the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Son of Henry & Emily Ingrey (Titchmarsh) of 33 Croydon.

Private James John Ingrey

54420, 9th Bn. Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

Died 19th September 1918 and buried at Thillooy Road Cemetery, Beaulencourt, France.

Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Brother of Harry Ingrey killed at Ypres.

Private Francis Henry King

26764, 7th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 9th August 1916 and commemorated on Pier & Face I C and 2 A of the Thiepval Memorial. Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Son of Montford and Eleanor King (Drage).

Private Sidney Law

11226, 1st Bn. Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment)

Died 13th March 1915 aged 23 and commemorated on Panel 26 and 27 of the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Son of Philip and Elizabeth Ann Law (Larkins) of 25 Croydon.

Private Reuben Lyon

26334, 1st Bn. Norfolk Regiment

Died 18th May 1917 aged 30 and commemorated on Bay 3 of the Arras Memorial.

Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Son of Robert and Susan Lyon of The Grove, Wendy.

Private William Lyon

5876, 1st/8th Bn Middlesex Regiment

Died 18th September 1916 aged 21 and buried at Euston Road Cemetery. Colincamps, Somme, France. Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Son of Robert and Susan Lyon.

Private Albert Presland

24986, 8th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 31st July 1917 aged 31 at Battle of Passchendaele commemorated on Panel 21 of the Menin Gate at Ypres. Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Son of James and Louisa Presland(Darnell) of 28 Croydon.

Private Reginald Presland

16310, 11th Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 28th April 1917 aged 22 and commemorated on Bay 4 of the Arras Memorial.

Awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal. Son of Arthur and Mary Jane Presland (Titchmarsh) of Lower Manor Farm

Private Walter Thacker

122719, 9th Labour Bn. Royal Engineers & 708 Coy.Labour Corps.

Died 2nd September 1917 aged 45 and buried at Canada Farm Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Awarded the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Husband of Louisa Thacker and son of William and Maria Thacker (Gates)

Private Frederick George Tiller

4700, 1st Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment

Died 11th November 1914 aged 32 and is buried at Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery at Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Awarded the 1914 Star and clasp, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Husband of Riba Tiller (Thacker) of Longstowe and son of William and Hannah Tiller (Burton) of Croydon

Private Arthur Titchmarsh

3/8227, 7th Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment

Died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916 and commemorated on Pier and Face 2 C of the Thiepval Memorial. Awarded the 1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Husband of Emma Titchmarsh (Green) and believed to be the son of Charles and Joyce Titchmarsh and brother of John and Frederick James Titchmarsh who died 1917 and 1918.

Private Frederick James Titchmarsh

24305, 2nd Bn. Suffolk Regiment

Died 15th June 1918 at the age of 23 and is buried at Pernes British Cemetery. Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Son of Charles and Joyce Titchmarsh and brother of Arthur (above) and John (below).

Private John Titchmarsh

250648(5650) 1st/6th Bn. Durham Light Infantry died 24th March 1917 aged 26 and buried at Oxford (Botley) Cemetery. Awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.
Husband of Maude Ethel Titchmarsh of Kent and son of Charles and Joyce Titchmarsh
Brother of Frederick James (above) who died 1918 and Arthur (above top) who died 1916.

Pte Walter Tiller 300647 Army Service Corps and Labour Corps

Walter Tiller is not listed on the memorial but nevertheless should certainly be included among those who died for their country. He enlisted in the Army Service Corp in 1915 and served in France from December 1915 until 19th March 1919 when he was honourably discharged after contracting TB in the trenches. He was treated for this at Papworth Hospital but subsequently died from the disease on the 29th July 1921, in Croydon, where at one time he had been the Landlord of the Axe & Compasses.
He was awarded the 1915 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal and, as he had been discharged as being no longer physically fit for service, the Silver Badge. He is buried in Croydon Churchyard.

Husband of Charlotte Tiller(Thacker) , son of William Tiller and Hannah (Burton) and brother of Frederick George Tiller whose name appears on the Croydon War Memorial.

A long term project researching the lives of the Croydon men who fought in the Great War, those who lost their lives and those who returned, was started at the time of the 2014 Car Show which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War.

The information gathered at that time was laminated and put into the black binders which are kept in the church for all to see. (Due to Covid, not presently on display!)

Since that time we have received with gratitude, various photos and information from people whose families were, and are, connected to the village. It would be even better if we could add to this collection and gather together, if at all possible, photographs of all the men!

If you have any information, family photographs etc. that you would be willing to contribute to this project we should be very pleased to hear from you.

Valerie Barnes –twohillside@hotmail.com



This booklet, price £1, entitled "Croydon War Memorial" would normally, in pre-Covid times, be available from the Church!