Biographies of Tunstall’s World War 1 Fallen

15th March 1915 - **ALBERT HENRY BAILEY** - age 28

Petty Officer Stoker 307995

Royal Navy, HMS Dartmouth

Son of Peter and Sarah Ann Bailey, husband of Charlotte Bailey of 63 Southside Street, Plymouth.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial

On 15th March 1915, the light cruiser HMS Dartmouth was involved in a naval bombardment in the Dardanelles campaign, when she sustained gun fire damage. A small number of her crew, including Petty Officer Bailey, died as a result of this damage.

*And on the same day*

15th March 1915 – **WILLIAM FRIEND** – age 33

Able Seaman 202233

Royal Navy, HMS Pembroke, the naval base at Chatham.

Husband of Mary Ann Todd (formerly Friend) of Marton Cottage, Thoroughfare, Woodbridge

Buried at Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery, Able Seaman Friend’s death is recorded at Medway.

31st May 1915 - **ARDLEY CHARLES GARROD**

Private 3/9091, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Born in Tunstall

Son of Charles and his wife, who lived on Tunstall Common.

The men of the family were all agricultural workers.

According to 2nd Battalion war diaries, while the Battalion was at the rear of the front line near Ypres, Private Garrod was shot by accident, though the specifics remain unknown. He died the following day and was buried locally in a small cemetery with a wooden cross that lasted until after the war, when he was reinterred at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery.

25th September 1915 – **TUDOR WILLOUGHBY CADY** – age 20

Private 13353, 9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Son of Robert Cady, an agricultural labourer, of The Common, Tunstall.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial

15th May 1916 – **FRED ROBINSON**

Private 13337, 9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Born in Tunstall, he lived with his grandparents James and Anne Robinson on Tunstall Common. He was an agricultural labourer.

Killed on the western front.

Buried at Le Brique Military Cemetery no 2

20th July 1916 – **FREDERICK DURRANT** – age 35

Private 15248, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Son of Henry and Mary Ann Durrant of 3 Woodbridge Road, Tunstall, who had 14 children, 5 of whom had already died by the 1911 Census.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, along with one of his brothers.

6th August 1916 – **ELI WARDLEY** – age 22

Private F/939, 17th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Son of Mrs S Wardley and John Wardley of Stone Cottage, Snape Road, Tunstall

Buried at Bernafay Wood British Cemetery, Montauban

16th September 1916 – **CHARLES DURRANT** – age 32

Private 13472, 9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Son of Henry and Mary Ann Durrant of 3 Woodbridge Road, Tunstall

Along with his older brother Frederick, he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial

*And falling on the same day,*

16th September 1916 – **CHARLES TYE** – age 26

Corporal 13511, 9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Son of John and Kate Tye of 102 Charlton Street, Collyhurst, Manchester

Born in Tunstall

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial

30th September 1916 – **GEORGE HENRY NEWDICK HOOK**

Private 44091, 9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Born at Soham

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial

16th August 1917 – **SPENCER THOMAS GIBSON** – age 29

Second Hand 7781DA,

Royal Navy Reserve, HMS Smack Ethel and Millie

Son of James and Rosa Anne Gibson of Jessamine House, 25 The Street, Tunstall

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial

HMS Smack Ethel and Millie was a Lowestoft fishing smack taken over by the Royal Navy and, along with another fishing boat, the Nelson, became the two smallest ‘Q’ ships, heavily armed special service ships that attempted to ensnare German vessels into action. The two boats, originally called “Boy Alfred” and “I’ll Try” had already had some success, having been responsible for sinking a U-Boat and were sent back out, renamed as the “Ethel and Millie” and the “Nelson”.

On 15th August 1917, the two boats were fishing on the Jim Howe Bank when the Nelson sighted a submarine (the mine-laying submarine UC-63). The Nelson attacked and fought until she sank, with the loss of her skipper, (the rest of the seven-man crew were eventually rescued) and UC-63 took on the Ethel and Millie in another gun battle. What happened next is the subject of much speculation. According to some reports, the crew of the Ethel and Millie were last seen being lined up on the deck of the UC-63 and sailing off, nothing further was heard of the crew.

The UC-63 was sunk later in the year by a Royal Navy E-boat (E52) and a number of her crew taken prisoner – but there were no records to indicate the fate of the Ethel and Millie crew. After the war, the German records also give no indication that POWs were taken.

The Prime Minister made an announcement of the action in Parliament and an “official” account was widely distributed in the press. The Skipper of the Nelson was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, but in none of these official announcements was there any mention of the involvement of the Ethel and Millie.

27th September 1917 – **ARTHUR DURRANT** – age 20

Sergeant 13317, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Another son of Henry and Mary Ann Durrant of 3 Woodbridge Road, Tunstall, their third son to fall in WW1, and the youngest of them.

Buried at Dozinghem Military Cemetery

30th December 1917 – **GEORGE EDMUND MAURICE COWELL**

Major, Royal Field Artillery

Buried at Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manacourt

Also commemorated on the Aldeburgh and Snape memorials.

10th January 1918 – **PERCIVAL FREDERICK PULHAM** - age 22

Lance Corporal 43114, 12th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Son of Mr F G and Mrs L Pulham of 69 York Road, Ipswich

Native of Tunstall

Buried at Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension

22nd March 1918 – **HERBERT WARDLEY** – age 22

Private 20371, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Son of Mrs S Wardley of Stone Cottage, Snape Road, Tunstall and the late John Wardley. Brother of the late Eli Wardley who fell 17 months earlier.

Buried at Estaires Communal Cemetery Extension

26th March 1918 – **JAMES McARTHUR JOHN GARROD**

Private 30503, 8th Battalion, King’s Own (Royal Lancashire Regiment)

Born in, and resident of, Tunstall, worked as a shepherd.

Son of Charles Garrod and his wife, brother of Ardley who fell in 1915.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial

12th April 1918 – **BERTIE LING** - age 20

Lance Corporal 29197, 10th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment

Born at Soham

Son of Arthur and Anna Long of Old Farm, Tunstall

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial

2nd November 1918 – **GEORGE PINKNEY** – age 35

Private 28923, 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

Born in Tunstall on 28th January 1883, the son of Emma and Thomas Pinkney, who was an agricultural labourer. Census records show that between 1881 and 1911 the family lived at a variety of locations in and around Tunstall Common.

George started school in Tunstall on 28th May 1888. His date of birth is incorrectly listed as 12th April 1883 in the school records. He left school on 5th February 1896, aged 12, to work as a farm labourer.

On both the 1901 Census and 1911 Census he is recorded as working as a horseman on a farm. His letters reveal that at some point he worked in Ipswich.

In both 1901 and 1911 census he is recorded as the head of the household, following the death of both of his parents, before he was even 18.

George joined the army in Bury St Edmunds in 1916. He was sent to the Duke of York’s School in Dover which was being used as a depot by the Royal Fusiliers, the pupils having been evacuated elsewhere. He was then sent to join the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers in Salonica, arriving there on 7th August 1916. The Battalion remained in the area until the summer of 1918 when it moved to France and the western front, arriving there on 4th July 1918.

The Battalion took part in various battles during the Hundred Days Offensive including the Battle of the Selle (17-25th October 1918).

Private George Pinkney died of his wounds at the 48th Casualty Clearing Station on November 2nd, though the date he was wounded and circumstances surrounding it are not known. He was buried at Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, just nine days later the guns fell silent on Armistice Day.

Read by Lucy Silovsky 11th November 2018