

Private Alfred Pryke (no. **G/8862**) 8th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal Kent) died on August 18th 1916 (**1890-1916**). He was the son of the farm stockman William and Susannah Pryke, of School Road, Thorrington, Essex. He was born on April 5th 1890 and baptised at St Mary Magdalene on May 3rd 1891. His siblings were Frederick, brickmaker Harry, Mary, Florence, Ivy and Kate. He became an agricultural labourer after leaving school. He married Edith Florence (nee Lake) Pryke at Romford, in April 1916. She remarried and his effects of £2 17/6 and a grant of £3 were paid to Edith F. Parry of 12, Graham St., Middlesbrough. He is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial for the missing at the Somme.

Serjeant Percival Charles Salmon (no. **863**) 2nd/5th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, Rifles Brigade who was presumed dead on June 6th 1918 (**1895-1918**). He was baptised on August 24th 1895 at St Mary Magdalene's. He was the son of farmer Charles and Esther (nee Howard) of The Willows. He had two siblings and worked for his father on the farm before enlisting in the Royal Foot Artillery (no. **207794**). A pension of 8/- per week was paid from February 25th 1919. He left effects of £10 13/- to his father Charles and was buried at the Ploegsteert Memorial, near Ypres.

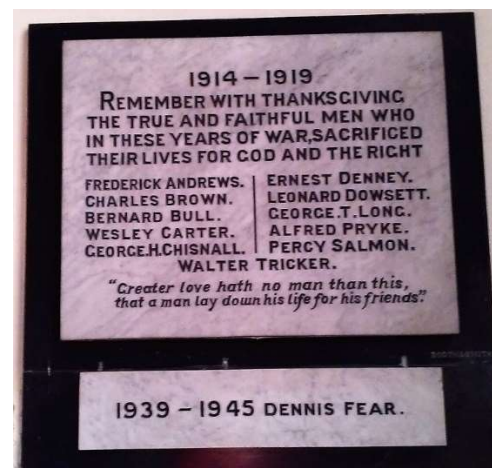
Private Walter Tricker (no. **19312**) 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment died on August 9th 1916 (**1869-1916**). He was the son of the agricultural labourer Walter William (aka Peter) Gant and Emma Tricker of Groton, Suffolk; born on December 28th 1869. His siblings were Hannah Rose, Harry Morgan (no. **29126** killed at Gallipoli in November 9th 1915), Moyan Henry and Emma Maria Mildred. The family moved across Suffolk and in October 1888, he married Alice Wilson in Plouesgate. Their son, Rodney was born on December 9th 1892 in Boxford. In 1911, he was an agricultural labourer living with his parents and son at Mill Cottages. He initially enlisted with the Hussars of the Line (no. **12890**). He entered France on July 14th 1915. On January 26th 1916 he was wounded and on 30th, he was treated for an abscess on his chest at No.4 Stationary Hospital at Arques, near St Omer. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial for the missing at the Somme.

World War Two

Aircraftman 1st Class Dennis D. Fear (no. **642065**) RAF Rochford, Royal Air Force Fighter Command, died on April 4th 1941; aged 19. He was the son of the farm horseman Reginald and Edith Alice Fear, of Westside, Tenpenny. He enlisted in 1938 as a Class F Reservist and was attached to the Fleet Air Arm when he was killed. He was buried at St. Laurence and All Saints, Eastwood.

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Thorrington War Memorials



St Mary Magdalene's



Victory Hall

On September 22nd 1914, the first man from Thorrington commemorated was killed in action. **Able Seaman Bernard William Bull** (no. **214140**) (**1883-1914**) was thirty years old. He was born on April 3rd and baptised on May 18th in Frating. His father John was a farm labourer from Great Bentley and his mother Emma Robinson was born in Great Barton, Suffolk. In 1901, the family lived at 41 Haggars Lane and Bernard was a Grocer's Porter. His siblings were Emma, Edith and Lewis. He enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1902 and was described as 5' 6 1/2" tall with light hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. Ships and bases he served at included: *HMS Northampton*, *Cleopatra*, *Pembroke*, *Amphitute*, *Vernon*, *Horth*, *Thames* and *Bonaventure*. These were mainly mine sweeping ships. On February 26th 1910 he married Gertrude Daisy Burling from Thorrington. The 1911 Census recorded them as living in Frating Road, Thorrington with Sarah – his mother-in-law. On December 1st, their daughter Gladys Violet was born. In April 1914, he retired to the Royal Naval Reserve. Only four months later he was recalled to *HMS Hogue*, an obsolete cruiser which was part of a Royal Naval blockading force off the coast of Belgium with *HMS Aboukir* and *HMS Cressy*. Their destroyer escort had not returned from Harwich after a period of bad weather. They were sighted by the German submarine *U-9* and sunk. Captain Drummond, on board *HMS Aboukir* had ignored standing orders to zig-zag and was torpedoed. Then he called in *HMS Hogue* and *HMS Cressy* to stop and collect survivors. They were torpedoed

within minutes. Sixty-two officers and 1397 men of over 2200 were killed – more than at the Battle of Trafalgar. Bull had drowned. A pension of 15/- per week was awarded on March 25th 1915, payable until 1927. His widow lived until 1981 when she died aged 98.

Private Frederick Andrews (no. **34081**) A Company 9th Battalion, Essex Regiment died on 17 March 1918 aged 21. **(1896-1918)**. He was the Son of the woodcutter James and Sarah Ann (nee Frost) Andrews of Tenpenny Hill, Thorrington. He was born in July 1896 and had one sister Vera. After leaving school he became a nurseryman's Assistant and enlisted into the Essex Yeomanry. (no. **1688**). He was buried at LONGUENESSE (ST. OMER) SOUVENIR CEMETERY IV. F. 69.

Rifleman William Charles Brown (no. **41310**) 10th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles died on 6 February 1917 in France at the age of 20. He was the son of farmer Joseph Corner and Gertrude of Pond House Farm. He was born March 26th 1896 in Colchester and baptised on March 26th at Brightlingsea Wesleyan Methodist Church. He had two sisters, Kate Rose and Gertrude Mary. After leaving school he worked on the family farm before he enlisted (no. **312981**) Essex Regiment. He was buried in Longuenesse, Pas-de-Calais, France. He left effects of £1 9/- to his mother, who also received a grant of £3.

Corporal Wesley Carter (no. **250831**) 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment died on 22 April 1918 Age 22 Son of the village sub-postmaster David and Florence Carter, of Thorrington, Colchester. His brother Joseph served in the Merchant Marine and sister teacher Ethel. After leaving school he worked as a farm labourer before enlisting in Chelmsford. He left effects of £2 8/11 and a grant of £15 in December 1919 Buried at ST. VENANT-ROBECQ ROAD BRITISH CEMETERY, ROBECQ Pas-de-Calais. III. D. 18.

Surgeon-Lieutenant George Chisnall MB, BS, FRCS (1886-1914) was from Frating Abbey Farm – the son of Charles Henry and Eugenie Chisnall. He was born at Great Bentley. With his two brothers, Arthur Patrick and Charles Alain, he attended Framlingham School (1896-1903). Then he trained at the London Hospital Medical College qualifying in 1908 and gaining the MB (London) in 1910. He was a *member of the Tending Guardians*. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps on a temporary Commission as Lieutenant on August 6th 1914 and started work in the surgical ward at the No.7 General Hospital in Amiens. This was abandoned in the retreat from Mons and he was attached to the 1st Battalion

Cameron Highlanders. He was mortally wounded by shell-fire on 23rd October whilst tending to an injured man between the villages of Bixscoote and Langemarcke, on the coast of Belgium. *He was carried into the Divisional dressing station, and, recognising that his time was near, he at his own desire, received Holy Communion at the hands of the Rev JWS Parry Evans, Chaplain to the Forces. His work among the injured had been magnificent and his loss was greatly deplored. He was laid to rest in the churchyard of Elverdinghe, in Belgium, with full military honours.* He was commemorated on the Thorrington School Scroll (now outside the Village Hall) and on a plaque inside St Mary Madgalene. He was the first Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons to fall in the War. His brother Charles died from wounds received, whilst flying in combat in 1918, after the war ended.

Lance Corporal Ernest J. Denney (no. **9418**) 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment died on 25 April 1915 in Gallipoli, Turkey. **(1892-1915)** He was the son of road mending labourer George and Elizabeth (nee Bowell) of Pear Tree Hall. Born in Alresford on March 1892 and baptised at St Peter's on June 16th. By 1901, the family had moved to Tenpenny. He had one older brother agricultural labourer William and three sisters – Lillian, Emma and Daisy. He enlisted at Harwich. He left effects of £8 7/1. A pension of 5/- a week was paid from November 6th 1918 and a grant of £15 was paid in 1919. He was buried at Gelibolu, Canakkale, Turkey.

Acting Corporal Leonard Dowsett (no. **3/1945**) 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment died on July 3rd 1916 at No.1 General Hospital, Etretat, aged 22. **(1894 – 1916)** He was the son of the late James and Eliza Marie Malt Dowsett; and from 1901 the stepson of Mr. William Leach. In 1911, he lived with his step-father and soldier brother Fred in School Lane, Elmstead. He worked as a butcher's errand boy. He was buried in Etretat Churchyard about 26 kilometres north of Le Havre. An award of £3 was received by his step-parents at Mill Cottage, Thorrington.

Private George Thomas Long (1877-1918) (no. **326600**) of the 2nd/9th Durham Light Infantry was 42 when he died on December 23rd 1918 in Salonika, Greece. (Three quarters of the deaths at these hospitals were due to influenza.) He was the son of William and Mary. He 1901, they lived at Harwich Road, Ardleigh and George was employed as a platelayer on the railway. In 1911, he lived in Ardleigh and his future wife, Emma Elizabeth Brand, was listed as his housekeeper. On April 29th they married at St Andrew's, Greenstead. Their address was given as Station Road Cottages, Frating and George's occupation as Roadman. He was 5' 10# tall; had a 38 ½" chest with an expansion of 7".