

# Ashmansworth and Crux Easton

## The Great War

### 1914 - 1919

Ashmansworth War Memorial

#### **George Edgar Booth**

Private George Edgar Booth was the eldest son of Charles and Emily Booth. of Village Road, Ashmansworth. Upon being called up he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. He later transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. On the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1917 the battalion moved into the front line near Nieuport. Belgium. By 1.15 am on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1917 the relief was complete. Later that day the battalion suffered one man wounded, and then on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1917 a total of 12 men were wounded in action. Two of the men subsequently died of their wounds. Private George Edgar Booth died of wounds on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1917, aged 21. He is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium.

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#### **Charles Cox**

Sergeant Charles Cox was the son of Chedorlaomer and Jane Cox, of Bramshott, Hampshire, and husband of Nora Robertine Cox, and the father of one child, of Ashmansworth. Prior to the war he was a Regular soldier serving with the Royal Field Artillery. Upon mobilisation he went with his unit, the 113<sup>th</sup> Battery, 25<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery to France, arriving there on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 1914. In May 1916 his battery was in Les Brebis, near Bully Grenay, France. On the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 1916 Les Brebis was shelled by the Germans, the shelling eased on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and on the 31<sup>st</sup> – *'During the day the hostile artillery were unusually quiet but became rather active towards evening'*. During one of these bombardments, Sergeant Charles Cox was killed whilst trying successful to save a horse. He was aged 39. He is buried in Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension. France. He had previously been Mentioned in Despatches.

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## **Albert Etwell**

Gunner Albert Etwell was the son of Edward and Jane Etwell of Village Road, Ashmansworth, and husband of Frances Etwell (nee Mason), and the father of two children, of Curzon Street. Faccombe, Andover. He volunteered for the army in November 1914 joining the Royal Field Artillery. After training near Exeter, he was transferred to the Mounted Military Police in Edinburgh. He went to France early in October 1916 where he joined the Reserve Division, Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Gunner Albert Etwell was one of five men from his unit killed in action on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 1917. He was aged 36. He is buried in Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

## **Frank Fouks**

No biography available

Ashmansworth – not listed on war memorial

## **Edward James Hazell**

Private Edward James Hazell was the son of Edwin and Ann Hazell, of Brightwalton, Wantage, and husband of Edith Ellen Hazell (nee Scull, originally from Ashmansworth), and the father of one child, of Northbrook Place, Newbury. He was an Army Reservist and went with his unit, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales (Royal Berkshire) Regiment, to France, landing there on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1914. After being engaged in fighting near Gheluvelt, Belgium, the battalion moved, on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1914 to positions near Westhoek. They stayed in this area for nine days, exposed to incessant rain and heavy shell fire. Private Edward James Hazell was killed in action on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 1914. He was aged 27. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. His brother in law, Harvey Scull was also killed in the war.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

## **William Edward Johnson**

Private William Edward Johnson was the son of Charles and Matilda Johnson of Ashmansworth and husband of Florence Maud Johnson, of 3 East Cottage, Datchet, Buckinghamshire. He volunteered for the army joining the 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> (Buckinghamshire) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. On the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1916 the battalion were in the trenches near Fauquissart, France, where they were due to take part in a large scale attack on the German Positions

on the River Layes. Whilst waiting to attack, the battalion was heavily shelled, including with gas shells, by the Germans, and then a British shell landed short and ruptured one of their own gas cylinders. They suffered 163 Casualties before they left the trenches. The remainder of the battalion then 'went over top', but were mown down by heavy machine gun fire. The battalion suffered 342 casualties in the assault, Private William Edward Johnson was killed in action on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1916. He was aged 23. He has no known grave, and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, France.

Crux Easton – not listed on war memorial

### **Edward Joseph Kennedy**

Private Edmund Joseph Kennedy was the son of Patrick and Mary Kennedy, of Kearney, Ontario, Canada, and the husband of Rosa May Kennedy, of Manor Farm, Crux Easton. He was born in 1888 in Springstown, Ontario. He volunteered for the Canadian Army on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1914, and arrived with his unit, the 24<sup>th</sup> (Victoria Riles) Battalion, Canadian Infantry, in France on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 1915. On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1916 he transferred, after a period of illness, to the Regimental Pay and Record Office in London. Whilst here he met Rosa May Goulstone, and they married in January 1917. On the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1917 he returned to active duty with his unit. On the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1917 the battalion were in the frontline near Passchendaele, Belgium. After an attack by the 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion positions were intensely shelled - part of the battalion were '*practically wiped out, their trenches being absolutely demolished*'. Private Edmund Joseph Kennedy was one of 233 casualties in the battalion that day; he was killed in action, aged 32. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

Ashmansworth – not listed on war memorial

### **William Kneller**

Sergeant William Kneller was the son of James and Emma Kneller of Whitchurch, and husband of Mary Kneller, of Ashmansworth. He volunteered for the army joining the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. He later transferred to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment. Having served most of the war in Salonika, Greece, the battalion moved to the Western Front on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1918. Throughout October and early November 1918 the battalion was engaged in pursuing the retreating German Army. By the 29<sup>th</sup> October they had reached Le Cateau, France. The next day the battalion relieved the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Devonshire Regiment in the Line. Sergeant William Kneller was killed in action on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1918, aged 36. He is buried in Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-Au-Bois, France.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

## **Harvey Scull**

Private Harvey Scull was the son of Henry and Emily Scull of Ashmansworth, and husband of Annie Elizabeth Dorothea Scull, of 1008, Hay Street, Perth, Western Australia. He enlisted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1916, and after training in Australia landed in France on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1917, where he joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry Force on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 1917. On the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1917 the battalion *'relieved a New Zealand Battalion in the Support Line, back of Messines and remained here until the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Whilst here the men were engaged on various fatigue works. At intervals these support trenches were heavily shelled, and we suffered some casualties'*. Private Harvey Scull was killed in action on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1917, aged 23. He is buried in Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium. His brother in law, James Hazell was also killed in the war.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

## **Claud Rokako A' Beckett Terrell**

Captain Claud Rokako A'Beckett Terrell MC was the son of Arthur and Georgie A'Beckett Terrell, of 12, Fitzjames Avenue, Kensington, and Ashmansworth. He volunteered for the army on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1915, having just returned from Singapore where he had been employed as a Lawyer. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant and joined the 460<sup>th</sup> Battery, 15<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery. He was promoted Captain on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917. On the 8<sup>th</sup> June 1917 Captain Claud Rokako A'Beckett Terrell was *'seriously wounded by a high velocity shell while he was walking from the OP [Observation Post] to the battery'*. He died of wounds on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1917 in 41 Casualty Clearing Station. He was aged 33. He is buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France. In April 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for conspicuous bravery and gallantry in action.