

WORLD WAR I

Name Arthur Abbott
Rank Lance Corporal
Service Number 16982
Unit/Regiment 7th Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment
Birthplace Great Addington
Date of Death 18 August 1916
Details Son of Simeon and Mary Sarah Abbott. Enlisted at Kettering. Killed in action aged 30 at Guillemont, France during the first Battle of the Somme. One of 50,000 killed in 4 months of fighting. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial (panels 11A/11D).

Name William Hepton
Rank Private
Service Number M2/182617
Unit/Regiment Military Transport, Royal Army Service Corps
Birthplace Great Addington
Date of Death 16 March 1919
Details Son of Elizabeth Hepton. Died aged 27. Buried in All Saints Churchyard, Great Addington.

Name Charles Loakes (not listed on the Great Addington Memorial)
Rank Private
Service Number TF/205423
Unit/Regiment 6th Battalion, The Queen's, Royal West Surrey Regiment
Birthplace Great Addington
Date of Death 04 December 1918
Details Son of Joseph Chapman Loakes and Elizabeth Loakes. Moved from Woodford to Thrapston in 1915. Died aged 36 during the Spanish Flu Pandemic one month after the armistice. Listed on the Thrapston memorial. Buried in Valenciennes Communal Cemetery with 885 comrades.

Name Harold Peck
Rank Private
Service Number 27765
Unit/Regiment 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment
Birthplace Great Addington
Date of Death 10 July 1917
Details One of 547 servicemen killed in action in operations on the Belgian coast. Commemorated on Nieuport Memorial, Belgium.

Name Walter W Tiney
Rank Private
Service Number 16510
Unit/Regiment 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment
Birthplace Woodford
Date of Death 23 July 1916

Details Enlisted at Kettering. Killed in action during the first Battle of the Somme. One of 50,000 killed in 4 months of fighting. Also listed on Woodford Memorial. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial (panels 11A/11D).

WORLD WAR II

Name Stanley W Hicks
Rank Lance Corporal
Service Number 13055569
Unit/Regiment Pioneer Corps
Birthplace Great Addington
Date of Death 10 January 1944
Details Son of James Hacker Hicks and Ivy Agnes Hicks; husband of Wilhelmina Kinnaid Hicks. Died aged 31. Buried in All Saints Churchyard, Great Addington.

Name John J Wright
Rank Corporal
Service Number 5892021
Unit/Regiment 2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment
Birthplace Great Addington
Date of Death 24 May 1944
Details Son of Henry and Rose Annie Wright; husband of Anne Lilian Wright. Died aged 21 during the Anzio breakout in Italy. Buried in the Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio with 2,316 comrades (grave XV B4).

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, 13 divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting 7 days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July.

Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter. In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918. The Thiepval Memorial, the memorial dedicated to those who died during the Battle of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French battle memorial in

recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

NIEUPOORT MEMORIAL

The Nieuport Memorial bears the names of 547 officers and men of United Kingdom forces who died during World War I in operations on the Belgian coast, and whose graves are not known. A small number of those commemorated were casualties of 1914, mainly of the Royal Naval Division, who died in the attempt to hold Antwerp in October.

Commonwealth forces did not return to this part of the line until June 1917, when XV Corps relieved French troops in the sector from St Georges (now Sint Joris) to the sea. They saw particularly fierce fighting at Nieuport (now Nieuwpoort) in July before handing the sector back to the French in November 1917. The remainder of those commemorated at Nieuport died during these months.

BEACH HEAD WAR CEMETERY, ANZIO

On 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side. Progress through southern Italy was rapid despite stiff resistance, but by the end of October, the Allies were facing the German winter defensive position known as the Gustav Line, which stretched from the river Garigliano in the west to the Sangro in the east.

Initial attempts to breach the western end of the line were unsuccessful. Operations in January 1944 landed troops behind the German lines at Anzio but defences were well organized, and a breakthrough was not actually achieved until May. The site of the cemetery originally lay close to a casualty clearing station. Burials were made direct from the battlefield after the landings at Anzio and later, after the Army had moved forward, many graves were brought in from the surrounding country. Beach Head War Cemetery contains 2,316 Commonwealth burials of World War II, 295 of them unidentified.