

Guide to Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Grave in Upton Grey (St. Mary's) Churchyard – Brigadier Lord Basing

1. **Purpose of this Guide.** The purpose of this Guide is to show the location of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) War Grave for Brigadier Lord Basing in the Upton Grey (St Mary's) Churchyard. The Guide explains exactly what is meant by a war grave, shows where the grave for Brigadier Lord Basing is located, describes the memorial, and gives some information about him. Some information is also given about the other memorials in the Churchyard to people from Upton Grey who perished whilst serving in the Armed Forces during the 1st World War. A copy of this Guide is available in the porch of the church, and it can also be downloaded from the St Mary's Church Website, available under "Local Information". The Guide is dated 11th November 2018.
2. **Introduction to The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).** The CWGC was established by Royal Charter in 1917 as the sole organisation charged with the care and commemoration of those Commonwealth Armed Forces personnel who died during the two World Wars. They currently care for the graves and commemorations of 1.7 million men and women worldwide and have war graves at over 12,000 locations in the UK alone.
3. **What is a War Grave ?**
 - a. The conditions laid down by the CWGC for a grave to be declared a War Grave, are that the deceased must have served in a World War, and, for the First World War, the deceased must have died between 1st August 1914 and 1st August 1921.
 - b. Many people will associate war graves with the First World War military cemeteries in Flanders, as illustrated below, but this is not the case for the War Grave in St Mary's Churchyard. As will be seen later in this Guide, the CWGC War Grave for Brigadier Lord Basing is more like a private memorial rather than the headstones seen in a 1st World War military cemetery.



4. **CWGC War Grave and 1st World War Memorials in Churchyard.** Apart from the CWGC War Grave for Lord Basing, there are 2 memorials for servicemen who were killed during the 1st Word War. The memorials are as follows:
- a. **CWGC War Grave - Brigadier Lord Basing.** The memorial for the CWGC War Grave in the Churchyard is for Brigadier Lord Basing, the 2nd Baron Basing, whose family name was George Limbrey Selater-Booth. He died on Tuesday 8th April 1919. Brigadier Lord Basing is not listed on the Upton Grey War Memorial because he was not killed in action during the War.
 - b. **Memorial to Private Frederick Hillier.** Private Frederick James Hillier was killed in action in France on 31st July 1917. His body was never found. His name is included on the churchyard memorial for the grave of his four-year-old son, who had died just 10 days before him. Private Hillier is listed on the Upton Grey War Memorial, but this memorial is not a war grave.
 - c. **Memorial to 2nd Lt. Edward Knipe and Captain Cecil Bodington.** There is a family memorial in the churchyard to Louisa Bodington, and the inscription also includes her son and her son-in-law. Her son, Captain Cecil Herbert Wyndham Bodington, was killed in action on 11th April 1917; his body was never found. Her son-in-law, 2nd Lt. Edward Arthur Knipe of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, was wounded in action in the battle of the Somme, and died of wounds on 25th September 1916; he is buried at Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme. Both Capt. Bodington and Lt. Knipe are commemorated on the Upton Grey War Memorial, but this memorial is not a war grave.
 - d. **Detailed Description of Memorials.** Each memorial is described in detail below.
 - e. **Location of Memorials.** Paragraph 7 below gives a pictorial guide to finding the memorials. In addition, a map of the churchyard showing the location of the memorials is attached at the end of this document.
5. **Additional CWGC War Grave in Parish Cemetery.**
- a. **War Grave in Parish Cemetery.** In addition to the 1st World War CWGC War Grave for Brigadier Lord Basing in the Churchyard, we have a 2nd Word War CWGC War Grave in the Parish Cemetery, which is located in Cemetery Lane, just opposite The Church. This CWGC War Grave is for Company Sergeant Major (C.S.M.) (WO2) T/61327 Arthur Sydney Counsell, who served in the Royal Army Service Corps. He died at the age of 27 on 19th June 1944 as a result of wounds received during the invasion of Normandy. The CWGC refers to the cemetery as The Upton Grey (St Mary's) Church Cemetery, which is its official name. However, locally, it is more generally known as the Parish Cemetery, or just The Cemetery.
 - b. **Guide to the CWGC War Grave in the Parish Cemetery.** A Guide to the CWGC War Grave in the Parish Cemetery is available in the shelter inside the cemetery, and it can also be downloaded from the St Mary's Church Website, available under "Local Information".

6. **War Memorial and Plaque Commemorating The Fallen.** Before searching for the CWGC War Grave and the other 1st World War memorials in the Churchyard, it would be well worth inspecting the War Memorial and the plaque commemorating The Fallen inside the church. This will put the memorials into context.

- a. **War Memorial.** As shown in the photograph below, the War Memorial stands in the corner of the Churchyard, close to the main road through the village, Church Street. There is a path up to it from just inside the Churchyard behind the Lych Gate. The photos below show the Memorial in more detail.



Front



Back

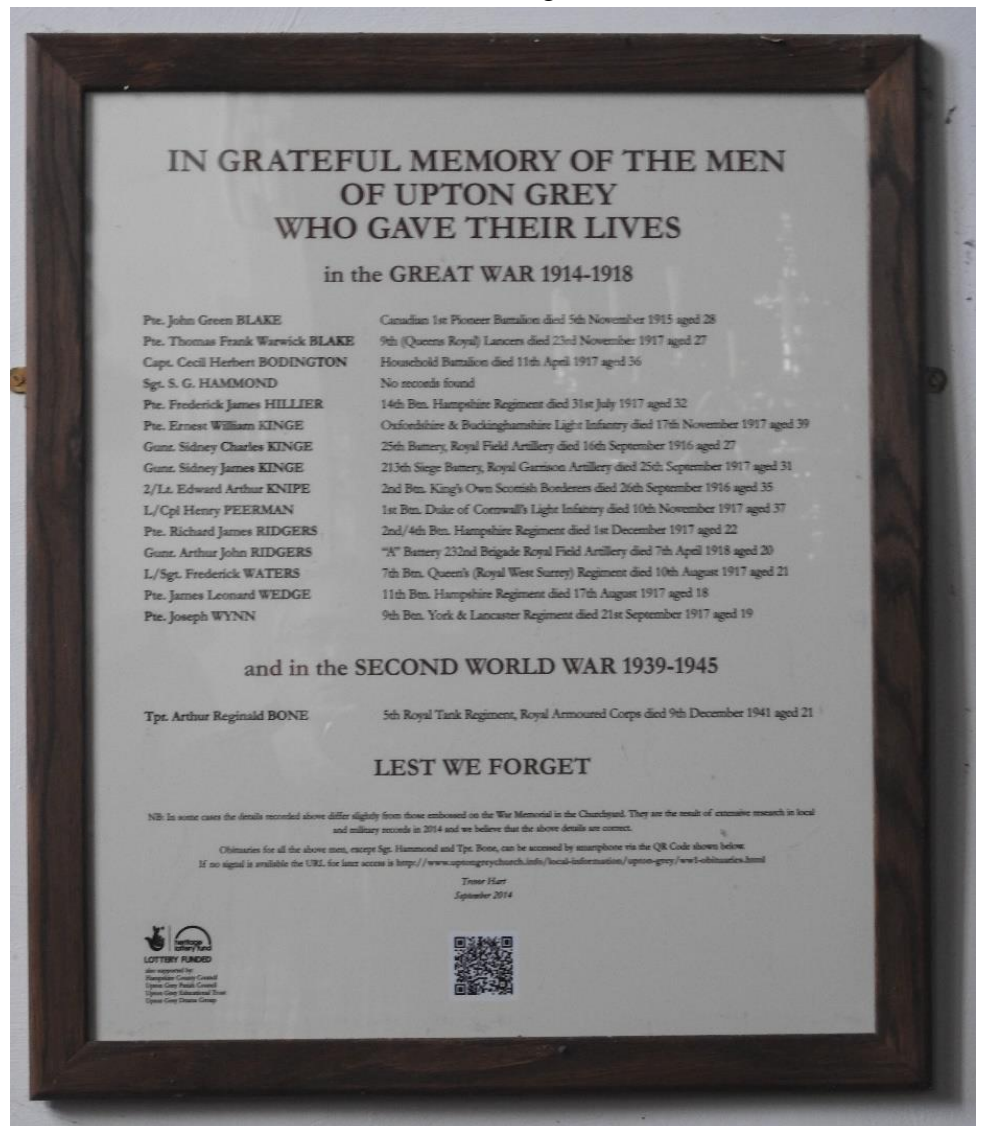


Left



Right

- b. **Plaque Commemorating the Fallen.** The plaque (shown in photo to the right) is inside the church, on the wall to the left as you come through the door and turn left between the pews. It commemorates men from the village of Upton Grey who perished in both World Wars.



7. **How to Find the Memorials in the Churchyard.**

The photographs below show how to find the memorials. Go through the Lych Gate and up to the church porch, and enter the church to view the wall plaque commemorating The Fallen. Exit the church through the porch and turn right. Go past the corner of the church with the upstanding oil intake pipe, and turn right again. The memorial to Private Hillier can then be seen ahead, towards the boundary wall.

Private Hillier's Memorial



CWGC War Grave for Brigadier Lord Basing

The memorials can be approached from the opposite direction by turning left after exiting the porch and following the path round past the Vestry Door. When the path ends continue along the wall of the church then turn left around the corner and then left again at the next corner. Head to the right of the fuel tank and the memorials will be ahead and almost in line, as shown in the photographs below.



2nd Lt Knipe & Capt Bodington

CWGC War Grave
Brigadier Lord Basing
2nd Baron Basing
George Limbrey Sclater-Booth

Private Hillier



2nd Lt Knipe & Capt Bodington

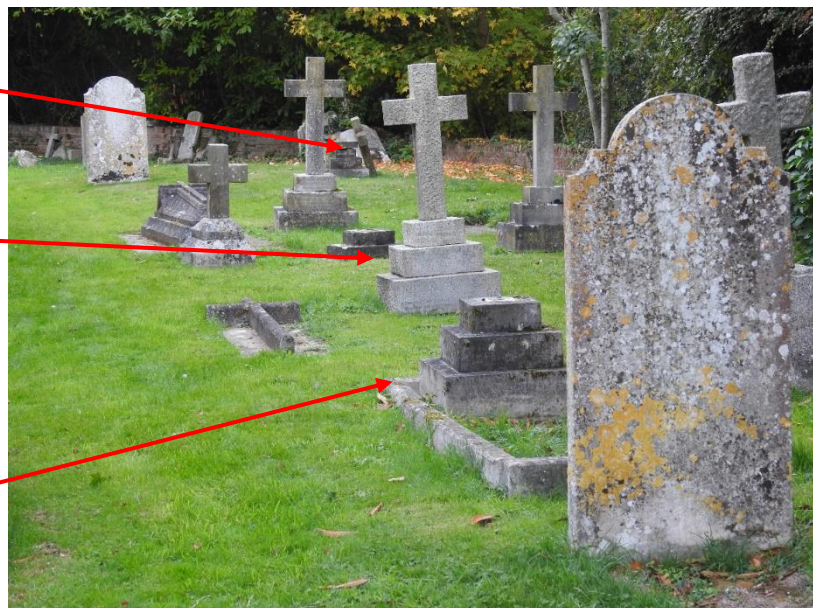
Brigadier Lord Basing

Private Hillier

Private Hillier

Brigadier Lord Basing

2nd Lt Knipe & Capt Bodington



8. CWGC War Grave – Brigadier Lord Basing - George Limbrey Sclater-Booth.

- a. **Memorial for the 2nd Baron Basing.** The CWGC War Grave in the churchyard does not look like a War Grave and has no mention of rank or service during the 1st World War. On the contrary, it is very much a private and personal grave marker for the 2nd Baron Basing, whose family name was George Limbrey Sclater-Booth. He died on Tuesday 8th April 1919, aged 59, from cancer of the rectum and cancer of the bowel. His memorial is a granite cross at the back of the church near the oil tank, and is illustrated from front (right) and back (left).



- b. **Inscription.** The inscription is difficult to decipher as the lead letters have faded and the stone is discoloured; it reads: “In loving memory of George Limbrey, 2nd Baron Basing of Hoddington House, Born Jan 1st 1860, Died April 8th 1919, also of Mary his wife, Born July 28th Died June 3rd 1904, And was laid to rest in Naini-Tal, India. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God”.
- c. **Hoddington House.** The family owned Hoddington House, which still stands in Hoddington Park, from 1637 to 1944, when the family sold the estate and left the village.
- d. **Declaration of Memorial as War Grave.** The conditions laid down by the CWGC for a grave to be declared a War Grave, are that the deceased must have served in a World War, and, for the 1st World War, the deceased must have died between 1st August 1914 and 1st August 1921. As Brigadier Lord Basing served in the Army during the First World War and he died in 1919, his memorial fulfils the CWGC condition for a war grave and it has been declared as such on the CWGC Website.
- e. **Army Service.** Brigadier Lord Basing entered the Army in 1882 when he was commissioned into the 1st Royal Dragoons. He took part in the South African War, and was present at the Relief of Ladysmith, Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaal Krantz, Tugela Heights and Pieters Hill. From July 1901 to May 1902 he commanded a Column. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and commanded his regiment in India from 1902 to 1906 when he retired. He was gazetted C.B., twice mentioned in despatches, and awarded the Prussian Order of the Red Eagle. On the outbreak of war in 1914 he re-joined the Army and was given command of a Brigade, subsequently being appointed Staff Officer for Volunteer Services.

- f. **Brigadier Lord Basing Omitted from Upton Grey War Memorial.** The names on the Upton Grey Village War Memorial are for those who died in combat between 1914 and 1918; it also includes a serviceman who was killed during the Second World War. As Brigadier Lord Basing was not killed in combat, and as he died in 1919, his name does not appear on the Upton Grey Village War Memorial.
- g. **Biography.** The following is the basic biography of George Limbrey Sclater-Booth, 2nd Lord Basing, 1860-1919.
- i. Limbrey, the eldest son of the first Lord Basing, was born on January 1, 1860, at New Street, Spring Gardens, London, and was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1881 with a second class honours degree in law.
 - ii. He married his wife Mary on December 12, 1889, and had 3 children, as follows:
 - (1) John Limbrey Robert, 3rd Baron.
 - (2) Joan Penelope, born 1892, married in 1919 Captain Roger Grenville Peek, 9th Lancers, who was killed on active service in Ireland in 1921. They had two sons.
 - (3) Lydia Joyce, born 1898, married in 1921 Captain Anthony Harley Mark Bell, and had three children.
 - iii. On the death of his father in 1894, Limbrey succeeded to the title and estates, and became a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire.
 - iv. Lady Basing died in India on June 1, 1904. After this Limbrey's life lost its meaning and he never fully recovered his spirits or took much part in public affairs. He died on April 8, 1919, at Hoddington, and was buried at Upton Grey.

9. **Private Frederick Hillier.**

- a. **Churchyard Memorial.** We have a churchyard memorial to Private Frederick James Hillier, who was killed in action in France on 31st July 1917. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, and he is named on the churchyard memorial for the grave of his four-year-old son who had died just 10 days before him. Private Hillier is commemorated on the Upton Grey War Memorial. This memorial is not a War Grave.
- b. **Location.** The memorial is located behind the church close to the rear boundary, further along from the oil tank than the memorial for Brigadier Lord Basing.
- c. **Description of Memorial.** The memorial looks slightly forlorn and damaged (see the photos below). It was clearly once a standing cross, made of sandstone, but the cross piece has broken off and is propped against the base.
- d. **Inscription.** The inscription is faded and difficult to read. It reads: “In Memory of Frederick James son of Frederick James and Esther HILLIER died July 16th 1917 aged 4 years also of Frederick James his Father beloved husband of Esther HILLIER killed in action in France July 31st 1917 aged 32”.



Left - Inscription on memorial for Private Hillier and his son Frederick.

- d. **Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial for Private Hillier.** As mentioned above, Private Hillier is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, as recorded in the certificate below.

In Memory of

Private

F J Hillier

14900, 14th Bn., Hampshire Regiment who died on 31 July 1917 Age 32

Husband of Esther Hillier, of Yew Tree Cottage, Upton Grey, Basingstoke, Hants.

Remembered with Honour

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

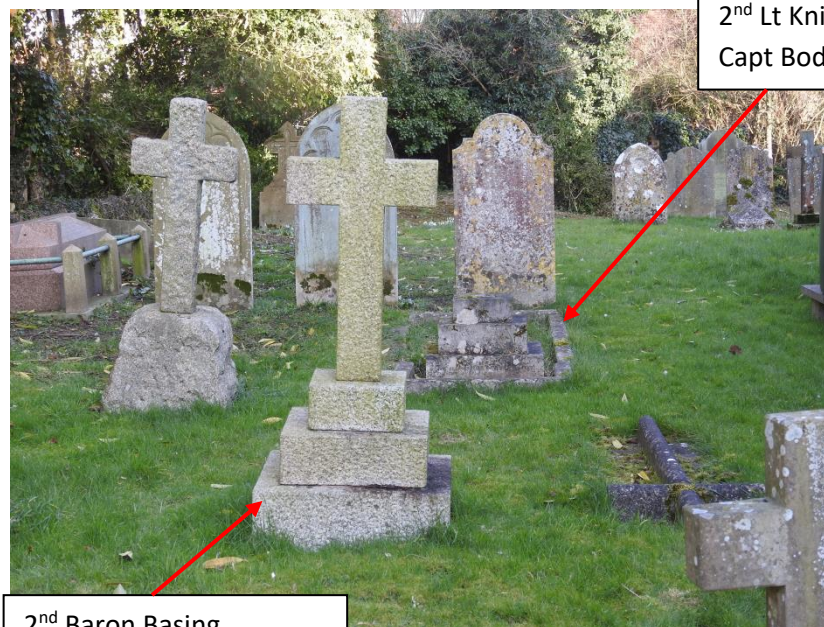


**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

- e. **Biography of Private Frederick James HILLIER (killed in action 31st July 1917).** Frederick James Hillier was born in Weston Patrick in October 1884, the second son of Frederick & Jane Hillier. His father was an agricultural labourer on Manor Farm. The family had moved to Bentworth by 1901, where father and son were carters on a farm. James, as he was known, married Esther Kinge on 30th October 1909 and moved to Brick Hill, South Warnborough, which is now in Upton Grey, where their son, also called Frederick James, was born on 6th February 1913. He enlisted in the Hampshire Regiment early in 1915 and was placed in the 14th (1st Service) Battalion with service no. 14900. He embarked for France with them on 26th May 1915, having given his address as Yew Tree Cottage, Upton Grey (see below). By July 1917 he was in the vicinity of Ypres when preparations were being made for the third major offensive on the Ypres Salient. They spent most of May and June out of the trenches, although the digging of support trenches attracted some enemy bombardment but resulted in few casualties. From June 21st to July 15th the Battalion was training at Houle near Watten, mainly rehearsing its projected attack over practice trenches. It then moved closer to the front, still training, until 29th July it moved up to Canal Bank to take up next evening its position for the attack. It was in the second line, behind the 11th Royal Sussex Battalion. Zero hour was at 3.50a.m. on July 31st 1917. The Royal Sussex Battalion took the first objective, the 'Blue Line', without much difficulty and the 14th Hampshires then 'leap-frogged' them heading for the next objective, the 'Black line'. Despite the difficulty of knocking out scattered pill-boxes, the 14th succeeded in taking the 'Black Line', then the 'Black Dotted Line' at Falkenhyn Redoubt, before pushing down the slope to Alberta to take the 'Green Dotted Line' on the east of Steenbeek. After fierce counter-attacks, the 14th consolidated the Division's position on the 'Black Dotted Line', having taken 200 prisoners, 3 guns and 17 machine-guns for the loss of three 2nd Lieutenants, including 2/Lt. Hewitt who was awarded a posthumous V.C. Four other officers were wounded and 60 men were killed on 31st July, including Private Hillier at the age of 32. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial and received the Victory, British & Star medals. It is unlikely that he knew that his four-year-old son had died just 10 days earlier.
- f. **Private Hillier and Yew Tree Cottage – Still Remembered.** For many of us, the names on these memorials are just that: names from the past. It is easy to forget that the men listed on the War Memorial and commemorated in our churchyard are men who once lived in Upton Grey. They will have lived in the village, walked past the pond, worshipped in the church and visited the pub. As mentioned above, Private Hillier and his family lived in Yew Tree Cottage in Upton Grey. The house still stands, on Weston Road, and by a strange co-incidence, our local historian, Trevor Hart, who has done so much research on the men of Upton Grey who fell in the 1st and 2nd World Wars and their memorials (see the St Mary's Church Website, Local Information), lives in Yew Tree Cottage. It is important to keep this link between the past and the present, to remember that the names on these memorials were once real people living in Upton Grey.

10. **2nd Lt. Edward Knipe and Captain Cecil Bodington.**

- a. **Churchyard memorial.** We have a family memorial in the churchyard to Louisa Bodington and the inscription also includes 2nd Lt. Edward Arthur Knipe of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, her son-in-law. He was in action in the battle of the Somme and died of wounds on 25th September 1916; he is commemorated at Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme. Also commemorated on the memorial for Louisa Bodington is her son, Captain Cecil Herbert Wyndham Bodington, who was killed in action on 11th April 1917; his body was never found. Both Lt. Knipe and Capt. Bodington are commemorated on our war memorial.
- b. **Location.** The memorial is located behind the church close to the oil tank and next to the memorial for Brigadier Lord Basing (in line with it, see photo below).
- c. **Description of Memorial.** The memorial is a box grave that now looks rather dilapidated (see the photos below) as one of the side stones has fallen over and there is a patch of cement towards the bottom of the grave. The CWGC have declined to declare this memorial a War Grave.
- d. **Inscription.** Again, the inscription is faded and difficult to read. It reads: "In Loving Memory of Louise Augusta wife of Rev. H.J. BODINGTON M.A. Vicar of this parish born Sept 8th 1853 called to rest Aug 15th 1911 also Lt. E.N. KNIPE KOSP son-in-law and Capt. C.H. BODINGTON RHG son killed in action in France 1916 and 1917".



2nd Baron Basing
Limbrey Sclater-Booth

2nd Lt Knipe
Capt Bodington





Inscription

e. **Biography of 2nd Lt. Edward Arthur KNIPE (died of wounds 26th September 1916).**

Edward Arthur Knipe was born in Kensington in the third quarter of 1881. In 1891 he was a pupil at a small private boarding school at 2 Crest Hill Road, Lewisham with eight other boys, one of whom was his 7-year-old brother. His parents were Arthur aged 38 and Ethel aged 34 and they were living at 12 Addison Road, Chiswick in 1891. In 1881 Arthur and his wife are staying with his parents and he is described as a Tea Planter in India who no doubt was seldom in England. He obviously came from a fairly wealthy family as the grandparents had 6 live-in servants and lived in Elveston Place, Kensington. Edwards's mother died late in 1898 aged just 41 when he was only 17. On 2nd April 1913 Edward married Winifred Mary Bodington, the son of the vicar of Upton Grey, in St. Mary's Church and they had two daughters, Betty in 1914 and Barbara, who was born in Sherborne Cottage, in 1916. Edward Knipe served as a 2nd Lt. in the 5th Battalion of the King's Royal Rifles in 1900 but retired in 1901 for business reasons. He joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers in 1915 as a temporary Lieutenant in the 9th Service Battalion and was transferred to 'A' Company of the 2nd battalion in France in June 1916, just prior to the Battle of the Somme which started on 1st of July. They moved up to the front on 19th July and advanced towards High Wood. 'A' Company went over the top at 3.30a.m. and took their objective, suffering 127 casualties including three officers. At the end of July, near Longueval, their attack made little progress and they had 6 officers killed, 9 wounded and 244 other ranks wounded or missing. On 3rd September they attacked Falfemont farm and had the 'honour' of assaulting the fort, where "the men, led with superb gallantry by inexperienced officers, advanced in broad daylight to certain death consciously yet without flinching" the words of 2nd. Lt Little quoted in the battalion war diary. But the attacking force was almost wiped out, with 8 officers killed and 283 other ranks killed or missing. Edward Knipe emerged unscathed. The battalion was moved to Morval on 24th September and was ordered to attack the following day. This was successful and some 700 prisoners were taken. The battalion sustained 165 casualties – the war diary records this as "very light" – including 2 officers killed and 3 wounded, including 2nd Lt. Edward Knipe, who died of his wounds in 14/Corps Main Dressing Station the next day. He received the British and Victory Medals and is commemorated at Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme.

- f. **Biography of Captain Cecil Herbert Wyndham BODINGTON (killed in action 11th April 1917).** He was born at the Rectory at Suffield in Norfolk on the 20th of November 1880, the second of eight children of the Reverend Herbert James Bodington and Louisa Augusta (née Mares-Cecil) Bodington and moved with his parents to The Vicarage, Upton Grey in 1898. On the 25th of July 1916 he married Lilian May Somerville of 9 Holland Park London. He was educated as a boarder at Charterhouse and King's School Canterbury, where he gained Junior & Senior Scholarships and was appointed as a School Monitor in September 1897. He played First XV Rugby, Fives and First XI Cricket, being Captain for his last two years. After King's he went to Peterhouse, Cambridge on an Open Classical Scholarship, where he represented the college and the university at cricket. He left university with a B.A. in 1902 and went to the Cape where he spent two years as tutor to the three children of the Maharaja Kapurthala.

On his return he became an assistant schoolmaster at Elstree and Stanmore Park Preparatory Schools and continued playing cricket, but now for Hampshire and later the Household Brigade. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Horse Guards on the 10th of November 1914, joining their reserve. In September 1916 he was promoted directly to Captain and posted to the newly created Household Battalion, formed as an infantry battalion from a surplus of men who had joined the Household cavalry, where he was given command of Number 4 Company. The Battalion arrived in France on the 8th and 9th of November 1916. On the 9th of April 1917 the Battle of Arras began and on the 11th April the Household Battalion was ordered to attack in support of the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders at Roeux. The Seaforths advanced at noon and 10 minutes later the Household Battalion followed them with Number 4 Company on the left of the battalion. As they advanced from the Hyderabad Redoubt, Captain Bodington, then aged 36, was killed by machine gun fire and the two leading platoons of his company were "practically destroyed". The attack faltered as the other companies suffered terrible casualties. Number 3 Company under Captain Pelly made some ground and he was ordered to consolidate this but otherwise the attack was a failure. Casualties were 3 officers and 36 other ranks killed with 1 officer and 124 other ranks wounded and 6 missing. He was awarded the Victory & British War Medals but his body was never found. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial for the Missing, Bay 1.

10. 1st World War Memorials in St Mary's Churchyard, Upton Grey.

