



**RUSPER & FAYGATE MEN
WHO ARE NOT
COMMEMORATED ON
RUSPER WAR MEMORIAL**

WW1

BLAKE Laurence Wortland Acton Sub Lieutenant

Royal Navy

Died 2 August 1918 when HMS Oriel was blown up. Age 19

Commemorated: Portsmouth Naval Memorial

The only child of Herbert Acton Blake (later Sir Herbert) and his wife Lucy Grace (nee Thin), Laurence was born on 26th October 1898 and baptised on 7th December at Wandsworth Parish Church. His father's occupation is given as Master Mariner.

On the 1901 census, Herbert A Blake is listed at "Elder Brother of the Trinity House and Commander R N Reserve. He and Lucy are living at "Kyoto", West Hill, Wandsworth, together with Lawrence (*sic*) aged 2 and two of Lucy's brothers.

In the 1911 Kelly's Directory, Captain Herbert Acton Blake is listed as living at Puck's Croft, Rusper. Laurence was educated at Eastmans's Royal Naval Academy, Southsea, a school known primarily for preparing boys for entry to the Royal Navy, and it is here that he is listed on the 1911 census, aged 12. In September 1911 he joined the Royal Naval College at Osborne, afterwards going on to Dartmouth.

At the end of his third term at Dartmouth, he was mobilized at the outbreak of War and joined HMS Venerable, taking part in that ship's bombardment of the Belgian coast in the latter part of 1914. He afterwards served on the same ship in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Dardanelles. In 1916, he joined HMS Collingwood and remained with her until he was promoted to acting Sub Lieutenant in March 1917.



In August 1918 he was serving as Sub Lieutenant on HMS Ariel in the North Sea

HMS Ariel, built in 1911, was a Acheron-class destroyer. In 1917, she was converted to a minelaying destroyer, capable of carrying 40 mines. Ariel served with the 20th Flotilla, and operated out of Immingham.

Photo: HMS Ariel

The provision of converted minelaying destroyers and the availability of reliable H2-pattern mines allowed the greatest allied minelaying operation of the First World War — the attempt to close Heligoland Bight to German ships and submarines. Ariel — with her sister ships — was employed on this work until the end of the war. On 27 March 1918, while laying a barrier minefield 70 nmi (81 mi; 130 km) north-west of Heligoland, Ariel — in company with Ferret, Abdiel, Legion and Telemachus — came upon three armed German trawlers, Polarstern, Mars and Scharbentz. All three vessels were sunk and 72 prisoners were captured.

On 2 August 1918, while conducting minelaying in the western end of the Heligoland Bight, the destroyer Vehement sank after striking a German mine. In attempting to exit the minefield, Ariel lost her bow and sank in less than an hour. 49 lives were lost, including her commanding officer, Lieutenant Frank A Rothera. Also among those lost was Laurence, after four year's active service,

DENNISTON Jack Evelyn Temporary 2nd Lieutenant 13119C

**10th Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) attended 1st Battallion
Died 21 September 1916 of wounds received on 20th
Buried Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz Plot I C37**

Evelyn, as he was known to his family, was born on 27 September 1894 in Kingston district and was baptised in Wimbledon as were his three elder brothers, Kenneth Robert Fullarton, Adolph William F (known as Dolph) and Hugh Allan Fullarton.



His parents, who married on 11 January 1887 in Kensington, were Robert Fullarton Denniston and Bertha Roman Fass. Robert was born in Scotland but appears to have spent much of his adult life in South Africa working for his father in law's firm A Fass & Co. Bertha's father was born in Germany and made his fortune in South Africa before taking British citizenship and settling at Chalfont Grange, Chalfont St Peters.

In 1901 Evelyn's sister Hester died in Durban, Natal South Africa aged 1 yr 5mths. In October 1903 his father died of pneumonia in Durban and the following month, Bertha Denniston and her three youngest sons disembarked at Southampton from Natal. In 1904 Evelyn and Hugh were enrolled at Bedford Grammar School.

Photo: Evelyn (centre) in his Black Watch kilt with his brothers Dolph and Hugh

In 1911, Bertha is living at The Cottage, Chalfont Grange, Kenneth is living in lodgings and Hugh is on a farm, listed at Farm Pupil. Dolph had returned to South Africa by 1911 and so perhaps Evelyn was with him. In September 1914, Hugh enlists giving Westons, Rusper as his home address and in 1915 Kelly's Directory lists Mrs Denniston as living at Westons.

On 2nd November 1914 Jack was gazetted as Temp. 2nd Lieutenant. In June 1915 Evelyn's school friend Richard B Buchanan died and Evelyn and another friend John Tristram Yard MC had a memorial board to their friend put up in Bedford Grammar School.

Evelyn disembarked on 29 May 1916 and left the base, joining his Battalion on 6 June. He was wounded in action on 19 July 1916 and was admitted to "GSW Face" on 22 July. He re-joined his Battalion on 27 July 1916 and was wounded in action on 20 September 1916 and died of his wounds either on the 20th or 21st.

The Probate index gives his address as Westons, Rusper. He is not on the Rusper War Memorial but is on the Honour Board at Bedford Grammar School.

Evelyn's brothers Kenneth and Adolph served as officers in the Royal Field Artillery, both winning the Military Cross and . Hugh served as a private in the City of London Yeomanry and then in the Machine Gun Corps. All three survived. Mrs Denniston appears to have left Rusper in 1918.



Photos; courtesy of the Denniston family

9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment**Killed in Action: On or since 26 September 1915****Commemorated Loos Memorial Panel 65 - 67**

Frank's parents Simeon, who was baptised in Bolney, and Elizabeth (nee Hammett) had married in 1890, Exeter district. In 1891 Simeon and Elizabeth were living in Rusper Lane, Ifield where Simeon was a gardener. Their first three children, Beatrice, Frederick Simeon (who were twins) and Frank Edwin were all born in Ifield. Frank was born on 3rd January 1893. Their fourth child Edgar George was born in Rusper in 1894, followed by Doris Hannah and Percy William.

In May 1896 Beatrice and Frederick are admitted to Rusper School, followed in May 1897 by Frank. Their address is Fay Cottage. They are all removed from the school in November 1897 only to be re-admitted, in November 1898 this time giving their address as Westons Lodge. It seems likely they had been in Colgate during the intervening period as Fred and Beatrice's previous school is given as Colgate. Frank, Edgar, Doris and Percy are removed in March 1906 - Fred and Beatrice having already left to go to work - only to be re-admitted a couple of months later.

The family were probably forced to move by a change in ownership/tenancy of Westons. In 1906 there was a large sale the contents of the residence advertised in Surrey Express on 24 November. In 1911, the family had moved to The Lodge, The Beeches, Faygate (Tower Hill) where Simeon was again employed as a gardener. Frederick was working as Keeper and Frank and Edgar are both Assistant Gardeners.

Frank's brother Frederick enlisted in The Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment on the 8 August 1914.

Frank enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment at Redhill. On the 20th August the regiment was in training at Aldershot when the 26th Division, of which it formed part, was inspected by King George V. On 25th August orders to go to the front were received and on the 31st August 1915, Frank disembarked with his Regiment in France. . He survived less than a month, his death recorded as presumed, on or since 26 September during the Battle of Loos which started on the 25th September. The battle witnessed the first British use of poison gas and the first engagement of large numbers of troops from Kitchener's New Army. The battle ended on the 28th September when the British troops retreated to their starting point but by this time there had been a huge loss of life with 8,000 British Troops being lost in one day.

Frank's body was one of the many not recovered for burial.



MEN FROM RUSPER PARISH COMMEMORATED ON THE IFIELD GREEN WAR MEMORIAL

CASON Isaac William John Pte 294411
708th Labour Corps

Died of wounds 2 September 1917

Buried: Canada Farm Cemetery, Ypres. Plot II Row G Grave 27

Son of William Joseph and Clara Cason of Bonwycks Place, Ifield.

Husband of Alice Mary Cason, nee Tyler

CHARMAN Nelson Pte G/25350

7th Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment

Died of wounds 14 August 1917

Buried: Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Ypres Plot VI D 13

Son of George and Sarah Ann Charman of Hyde Cottage, Ifield

DRUGHORN William Frederick Pte /L/Cpl
STK/76

10th Battalion London Regiment

Killed in Action 15 July 1916

Buried; Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-Boiselle

Son of Frederick John Drughorn, later of Ifield Manor

FRANKS Samuel George Pte TF/265403

26th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Died 17 August 1917

**Buried Tank Cemetery 23. Also Commemorated Delhi Memorial (India
Gate Face 1-23**

Son of George Sampson and Mary Ann Franks of Erith Cottage, Ifield Wood

HOY Jack Cpl G/3407

9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action 28 September 1915

Commemorated Loos Memorial Panel 69-73

Son of James and Mary Hoy of Mount Cottages and previously of Gate Inn Cottage

LAKER Arthur Pte G/17996

1st Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment

Previously Royal Sussex Regiment 6333

Killed in Action 4 October 1917

Commemorated: Tyne Cott Memorial Panel 106 to 108

Son of Albert and Helen Lake of Oak Tree Farm. Address on enlistment Oak Tree Farm. Husband of Alice Laker of Bermondsey.

ON THE ROLL OF HONOUR IN LOWFIELD HEATH CHURCH

ELLIS Albert Edward Pte 11800

2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Previously Duke of Cornwall's Lt. Infantry.

Died at Sea 13 August 1915 - when HM Troopship SS Royal Edward was sunk by U-Boat while en route to Gallipoli.

Commemorated on Helles Memorial, Turkey Part XII

MEN FROM FAYGATE COMMEMORATED ON THE COLGATE WAR MEMORIAL

ASHBY William John Pte 200460

1/ 4 Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Killed in Action 9th October 1918.

Buried: Hooze Crater Cemetery Grave XIV E8

Born in Colgate, he was the son of William and Emily Ashby of 6 Carylls Cottages, Faygate. Previously the family had lived at The Dragon, Colgate where his father had been a carpenter and inn-keeper. In 1911 William was listed as a gamekeeper's boy.

BROOKER Francis Pte G/5892

2nd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Killed in action 6 September 1916

Commemorated Thiepval Memorial, Somme

Son of Jesse of Upper Kilnwood Farm, brother of Alfred of Hilly Barn Farm, Martin of Axmas and Carylls Farms, of Ernest – Farm Bailiff in Rusper, Tom, Henry (Harry) and Edwin of Upper Bewbush Farm and Percy. Alfred, Henry and Percy all served in the Army.

FULLER Frank Pte TF/20168

4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment

Died of Wounds 15 October 1918

Buried: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Ypres XXX E5

Son of John and Emily Louise Frances Watkins of 14 Carylls Cottages, Faygate. John Watkins was a postman in Faygate and Arthur Watkins (on the Rusper Rusper Memorial) lodged with the Fuller family.

MEN WITH A RUSPER OR FAYGATE CONNECTION COMMEMORATED ON OTHER WAR MEMORIALS

HORSHAM TOWN WAR MEMORIAL

DANCY Alfred Jack Sergeant 20304/885
35th Machine Gun Corps (Inf) (formerly Royal Sussex Regiment)
Killed in Action on 27th March 1918. Aged 27
Commemorated on Pozieres Memorial Panel 90-93, In Holy Trinity Church,
Blunts Way and on the
See following sheet

LITTLEHAMPTON WAR MEMORIAL

W A SPEARS probably

MASKELL (alias SMITH) William Arthur L/Corporal 9319
2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment
Killed in Action 5 February 1915
Commemorated: Menin Gate, Ypres Panel 21 7 31
See following sheet

ST MARK'S WAR MEMORIAL KENNINGTON OVAL SE 11

SHAILL Amos Edwin Thomas Pte G13247
7th Battalion Buffs (East Kent) Regiment, previously 5th Lancers 23153
Killed in action on 3 May 1917 – death presumed
Commemorated : Arras Memorial Plot Bay 2 and on
See following sheet

35th Coy Machine Gun Corps (Inf) (formerly with Royal Sussex Regiment)

Killed in Action on 27 March 1918 Aged 27

Commemorated: Pozieres Memorial Panel 90-93 also on the Horsham Town War, and on a white marble plaque on west wall of the church of The Holy Trinity, Blunts Way.

Thomas and Caroline (nee Payne) were married on 18th August 1888 at Holy Trinity Church, Horsham and lived at Hollbrook (Holbrook Farm). In 1891 they were living at Sun Oak Lodge, Lower Beeding with their first son Thomas Arthur. By 1901 they had moved to north Horsham and were living at Home Farm, Holbrook. During the First World War they were living at "The Gardens", Holbrook Park, Horsham where Thomas was head gardener. Thomas and Caroline had 6 sons (Thomas Arthur, Alfred Jack, Charles Payne, Frederick E, Hubert and Alan Victor) and 2 daughters (Doris A, who was to marry Charles Farley, the Butcher in Rusper and was the mother of Ronald Farley who died in WW2, and Mildred Joyce). They attended school in Roffey.



In 1911, Alfred, known as Jack, was lodging with George and Isabella March at Ashford Cottages, Rusper. He was working as a domestic gardener.

Before the Great War, Jack was a private in the Territorial 4th Btn Royal Sussex Regiment and by 1915 he was serving with the Regiment's 7th Btn, a member of the Machine Gun Section. From March 1915, the battalion was stationed at Aldershot prior to embarking for Europe. They landed at Boulogne on 1st June 1915. Two months after arriving in France, Jack described in detail his front line experiences in one of his frequent letters home to his mother (see 'letters from the front' section)

Later in the war Jack transferred into 15th Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). He was home in the early part of 1918 when he married Ethel M Phillips in Horsham District. Jack was killed in action on 27th March 1918. This was at the height of the Ludendorff Offensive's rapid advance which had burst through the British lines leaving them in full retreat across the old Somme battlefields. The 12th Division was instrumental in halting the attack with the Aveluy Wood, Hamel area but suffered 1,634 casualties. 2/Lt H J H Jackson wrote to Mrs Dancy on 3 April 1919.

"It is with much regret that I have to inform you that your son Sergeant Dancy of my section been badly wounded and is now I fear in the hands of the enemy, at least I hope he is, you see during a withdrawal he was wounded in the ankle and was carried by one of our officers for some distance and then laid down for a bit and whilst on the ground he was hit again by a bullet in the body. Two men were left to take of him, both of whom were wounded. The Boche came on so quickly that they had to be left as there were no stretcher bearers at hand. The hope that he was reached in time by the German stretcher bearers is very small I fear. We all deplore his loss very much and I as his section officer regarded him as much a personal friend as a sergeant. He was very popular with the men and office and did excellent work all through. Please accept on my behalf and the rest of the Company our heartfelt sympathy for your loss."

With the exception of the youngest son Alan, all the brothers served in the War. Charles was killed by a sniper in 1915. The other three survived: Frederick and Thomas were both awarded the military medal and Hubert (Bert) was taken prisoner after being seriously injured.

Photo: Courtesy of Barbara Dale

MASKELL (alias SMITH) William Arthur

L/Corporal

9319

2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

Killed in Action 5 February 1915

Commemorated: Menin Gate, Ypres Panel 21 7 31

William Arthur Maskell's entry in "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919" gives his birth place as Littlehampton, his Residence as Faygate and his enlistment place as Brighton.

William Arthur joined the army using an alias, which is recorded in the Register of Soldiers Effects. His sole legatee was 'mother Catherine Spears' and under his name is added "alias Smith",

William Arthur Smith was born on 1 December 1891 to Catherine Smith, a general Servant in Charlwood at April Cottage. The 1891 census shows that Catherine's brother Arthur Smith and his wife Emma are living in Horley Road, Charlwood. Arthur is a coachman/groom and so it is possible that Catherine also went to work in Charlwood or perhaps Arthur just offered a refuge to his pregnant sister.

In 1894 Catherine Smith married William Spears, a widower. In 1901, Catherine Spears and her husband William James Spears, a milkman, are living in Lyminster (near Littlehampton) with children John, Wm A (aged 9 born Charlwood), Catherine and Florence.

In 1911 Catherine and her husband William Spears, now a farm labourer, are living with two daughters, Catherine and Ivy, in Littlehampton

William Arthur's army service number indicates that he enlisted in the East Yorkshire Regiment between February 1909 and March 1910 but he cannot be definitely identified with the regiment in 1911. The most likely entry is for an Alfred Maskell aged 20 born Littlehampton or it maybe he didn't stay in the army. However we do know that he was with his regiment when it disembarked in France on 15th January 1915. He was killed in action a little under a month later on 5th February 1915. On 4th February, his Battalion had to retreat from a trench near Ypres and the following day they tried to retake it. The trench was found empty but in the darkness, the identity of the trench was mistaken. This resulted in the force finding itself in the German lines where they were opposed by heavy rifle fire. The war diary lists; 'other ranks' 1 killed, 8 wounded and 4 missing.



At about this time but probably after William Arthur's death, William and Catherine Spears moved to Fay Cottage where William worked as a Cowman.. Rusper School Admission Records show Ivy Dorothy Spears (William Arthur's half sister) of Fay Cottage being admitted on 10/5/1915. Her last school is given as Littlehampton East.

On the Littlehampton War Memorial a W A Spears is commemorated and the Roll of Honour website gives his address as 31 East Street, Littlehampton.

7th Battalion Buffs (East Kent) Regiment**Previously 5th Lancers 23153****Killed in action 3 May 1917 – death presumed****Commemorated: Arras Memorial Plot Bay 2 and St Mark's War Memorial, Kennington Oval London SE11**

Amos Edwin Thomas was born on 14 December 1896 and was baptised, along with two of his siblings, on 15 July 1903 at Richmond Parish Church. He was the son of Stephen Shaill and his wife Emma (nee Read) who had married on 13 October 1889 in Richmond.

In 1901 the family were living in Richmond, Amos, then aged 4, had three brothers: William aged 11, Stephen 9 and Thomas aged 2, and a sister Ellen aged 7. Their father was a Coal Porter. In August, another brother, Arthur Ernest was born and then towards the end of the year Amos's father Stephen died year aged 35. Early in 1907, Amos' mother married William John Porter.

On the 1911 census, only two of Amos' siblings, William Henry and Arthur Ernest (who was to die in 1913 aged 11) are living with their mother (now Mrs Porter) and step-father. Amos Shaill, now aged 14, is listed as in 'inmate' of the School Of Handcrafts for Poor Boys in Chertsey. The School of Handicrafts in Eastworth Road was built by Mr. T.Hawksley, M.D., in 1885, and endowed by him for the elementary and industrial training of boys. It catered for about 100 boys, Stephen was an inmate in an Institution Boys Home training as a wood letter maker, Sarah Ellen was a domestic servant and Thomas Edwin, who was to die (along with Lord Kitchener) when HMS Hampshire was sunk, was on Training Ship Exmouth

On the 10th December 1915, in Horsham, Amos enlisted into the 5th Lancers. He gives his address as Kilnwood Cottages, Faygate and his occupation as Farm Labourer.

His medical history, completed on enlistment, tells us that he was 5ft 6½ ins tall and weighed 119 lbs. On his attestation papers he gives his mother's name as Mrs E Snail, 32 Clayton Street, Kensington when she has remarried in 1907 and was now Mrs Porter.

Amos was mobilized on 25th January 1916. On 29th November 1916 he was transferred to the E Kent (Buffs). Amos was posted missing presumed killed during the Battle of Arras.



The register of soldier's effects lists his legatee as his mother, Mrs Emma Porter but a form in his Service Record dated 1919 listing all his living relatives again lists his mother as Mrs E Shaill, and brothers as William Henry Shaill, Stephen Shaill (both of whom served in the army and survived) and half-siblings Alfred and Mabel Porter. No mention of Sarah Ellen but her name is noted on the Register of Soldier's effects.. One is also left wondering why Emma is still referred to as Mrs Shaill so long after her marriage to William Porter.