



WFA SUFFOLK BRANCH

Branch Briefing

November 2024

Our Website : <https://suffolk-wfa.org.uk>
Our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/WFASuffolk>



Tonight's talk

Ross Beadle : Cambrai

HAUGHLEY SILHOUETTES REMEMBER THE FALLEN Kim Smith

A village on the outskirts of Stowmarket has again pulled out all the stops to stage a haunting Remembrance tribute to the local men who lost their lives in both world wars.

Forty-one 4ft-tall plywood silhouettes of servicemen have stood guard on Haughley village green each November since 2019, attracting huge numbers of visitors.

The silhouettes were designed by Kieron Palmer, who runs the village bakery. He was inspired to create the installation after planting daffodils on the green in 2018 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his family's business

As the daffodils grew in clusters, they reminded him of troops and he commissioned a carpenter to create a template of a soldier from a century-old photograph. He then used a jigsaw cutter to create each silhouette over a period of 20 weeks, paying for all the materials.

Haughley lost 31 men in World War One and 10 in World War Two.

A small wooden cross at the feet of each one states their name and the year of their death.

Back in 2019, Kieron told reporters: *"It's quite poignant that they're on the village green because that is where the young men were recruited during World War One."*

"One of the Captains from the Yeomanry turned up and urged them to sign up for King and Country. He assured them that it would all be over in six months and they all marched off to fight."

"Most of them were just teenagers. Sadly, many of them never returned. Four or five were killed when they went over the top on the first day of the Battle of the Somme."



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The dead included a distant relative of Kieron, Boer War veteran Edwin Woods, who was killed at Arras.

He added: *“Walking around the silhouettes gives you a feeling of being among the actual men. I get goosebumps and it transposes what you may read on paper to being something physical. It’s important to visualise how many died. Just seeing a number means it is sometimes difficult to see how many sacrificed themselves.”*

Visitors have included people with sight problems, who have commented that they were particularly impressed because they could feel the shapes and visualise those they represented.

Each year the installation raises money for the Royal British Legion as Kieron takes donations in Palmer’s Bakery on the edge of the green. His staff also bake and sell poppy-emblazoned muffins and soldier silhouette biscuits to add to the total.

Kieron concluded: *“It’s important that even a small village like Haughley honours the men who fell for them.”*

The Fallen from Haughley:

WW1

Allen AGER

Lance Corporal G/16265, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 3 April 1918. Aged 24.

William BALDRY

Lance Corporal 9440, 1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. Died of wounds 1 March 1915. Aged 20. Enlisted Stowmarket.

Reginald Willoughby BUTTERWORTH

Private 4145, 4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died 29 October 1916. Aged 33.

Henry James Perceval CREAGH

Captain, 8th Battalion attached 3rd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died 23 November 1918. Aged 25.

Nelson Walter CUTTING

Lance Corporal 43302, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died 18 August 1916.

W Claude DENNY

Private 18042, 8th (Service) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment. Died of wounds 28 February 1916. Aged 20. Enlisted Colchester.

John ELMER

Lance Corporal 14468, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 5 April 1918. Enlisted Haughley.

Walter Henry ELMER

Private 20942, 9th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 30 September 1916. Enlisted Stowmarket.

William George GOODE

Private 36329, 7th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Died 26 February 1917. Aged 27.

Edward Donald HARRISON

Second Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died 25 July 1916. Aged 39.

H L HARRISON

No further information available

W W HAYWARD

No further information available

Clifford [Bruce] HONEYBALL

Private 5240, 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Killed in action 1 July 1916. Aged 20. Enlisted Haughley.

Job Sydney HUNNIBELL

Private 5232, 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Killed in action 1 July 1916. Aged 20. Born Old Newton, resident Dagworth, enlisted Haughley.

Oliver Charles JEFFERIES

Private 9046, 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 17 May 1917. Enlisted Bury St Edmunds

William Arthur JEFFERIES

Lance Corporal 27058, 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment formerly 36373, Essex Regiment. Killed in action 29 October 1917.

Enlisted Bury St Edmunds.

F E KEEBLE

No further information available

H KEMP

No further information available

C MORPHEW

No further information available

John Merchant MORPHEW

Private 23485, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died between 9 and 10 April 1917. Aged 25.

James MOSS

Private 5819348, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died 29 November 1920. Aged 31.

William PEARSON

Private 14862, 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 4 May 1917. Born Catton, Norfolk, enlisted Haughley.

Joseph Henry POLLARD

Sergeant 12818, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 22 January 1916. Aged 24. Enlisted Ipswich.

T RANSOM

No further information available

D A REYNOLDS

No further information available

Frederick William ROBERTS

Private 43130, 13th Battalion, Essex Regiment. Died 13 November 1916. Aged 21.

F J RUFFLES

No further information available

Walter SORE

Lance Corporal 14860, 8th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 17 February 1917. Enlisted Haughley.

R SUTTON

No further information available

Claude George WETHERALL

Private 41845, 4th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action 25 May 1918. Born Crayford, Kent. Enlisted Bury St. Edmunds.

Edwin Frank WOODS

Private 41496, 13th Battalion, Essex Regiment formerly 35087, Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 28 April 1917. Aged 39. Enlisted Bury St Edmunds.

WW2

T BEVAN

No further information available

J A BROWN

No further information available

John William Wyrett CLARKE

Steward LT/LX 575166, HMS Fratton, Royal Naval Patrol Service.

Died 18 August 1944. Aged 45.

A CLEMENTS

No further information available

Herbert Edward COLEMAN

Private 5837807, 1st Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Died 28 June 1944. Aged 20.

F FRANCIS

No further information available

John GOLDING

Trooper 14506391, Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons), Royal Armoured Corps. Died 27 June 1944. Aged 20.

Ronald GOLDING

Sapper 2156223, 58 Field Company, Royal Engineers. Died 7 April 1944. Aged 22.

Benjamin Patrick GREEN

Private 5831779, 1st battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Died 24 May 1944. Aged 28.

Reginald George JOLLY

Ordinary Seaman P/JX 516412, HMS Tweed, Royal Navy. Died 7 January 1944. Aged 18.



DECEMBER MEETING Dave Hedges

At the December meeting we will have our AGM, but please do not be put off attending by this.

We will hold the AGM after the three 'Cameos' ie three twenty minute talks from our own members

Lawrence of Felixstowe

Kim Smith

Tank support for the Australian Corp in late 1918

Roger Mason

How many motorbikes were sunk at Jutland?

Trevor Smith

I hope most will stay for the AGM. If we use the time efficiently it should not take too long.

And, if you all cross your fingers and say you believe in Father Christmas, we might persuade our Treasurer, Brian (Scrooge) Davies to let us have a mince pie each in the buffet.

The December edition will include an agenda and a financial report

If you want any issues raised please let our Chairman Colin Woods know beforehand.

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HUTTED HISTORIES — UPCOMING TALKS

Pinched from Taff's latest Great War Huts newsletter, here is their speaker programme held on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Brook Farm Camp.

27th November: Helen Frost - Women's Land Army

LEST WE FORGET Kelvin Dakin

8256, Private Harry Souter, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Born in 1893, Harry was the son of Jonathan and Harriett Souter of Bury Road, Chedburgh.

In the 1911 census he is with the 3rd Battalion at the Depot in Bury St Edmunds.

Harry crossed with the 2nd battalion on the 15th August 1914 and was listed as "Missing" following the Battle of Le Cateau (Casualty List issued by the War Office, 19th September 1914.)

Enquires were made to the International Red Cross, in 1915, by the Chedburgh vicar's wife, Mrs Cave, and a family friend, Mrs Cocksedge, for news of Harry but records show that he had died of wounds sometime between the 26th August and 26th November 1914. He was buried in Hautmont Communal Cemetery:

"Hautmont was captured by the Germans in the early days of the First World War, and it remained in their hands until retaken by the 42nd (East Lancashire) Division on 8 November 1918. The communal cemetery was used by the German troops for the burial of their dead, and the Allied prisoners who died in the local German hospitals were buried there by the authorities of the town."

(Commonwealth War Graves Commission description)

An article appeared in the Bury Free Press on Saturday 8th May 1915 mentioning Harry and his brother Albert.

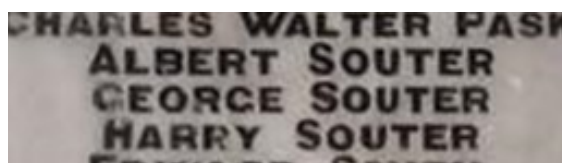


No.5589 (formerly 2580), Private, Albert SOUTER, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
Born in 1886, Albert served in France from 30th August 1914 and killed in action on 10th April 1915. He is buried in Suffolk Cemetery, Vierstraat, Belgium

Another brother, George, served in France after 1915 but also died:

No.40471, Private, George SOUTER, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
Reported wounded 30th August 1917 and 5th October 1918. Died of sickness 14th December 1918.
Buried in Huy (La Sarte) Communal Cemetery, Liege.

The three brothers are commemorated on the village memorial.



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THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD

**Talk at the Norwich Branch
Tuesday 3rd December**

Peter Hart - The French at Gallipoli.

**Our next month's talk
Wednesday 11th December**

Cameos & AGM

Please send any contributions for the *Branch Briefing* to:
David Hedges, 99 Cliff Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 9SA
telephone: 01394 272677 and email: david.j.hedges@btopenworld.com
Next Committee meeting: tba
Approach a committee member if you want any issue raised.