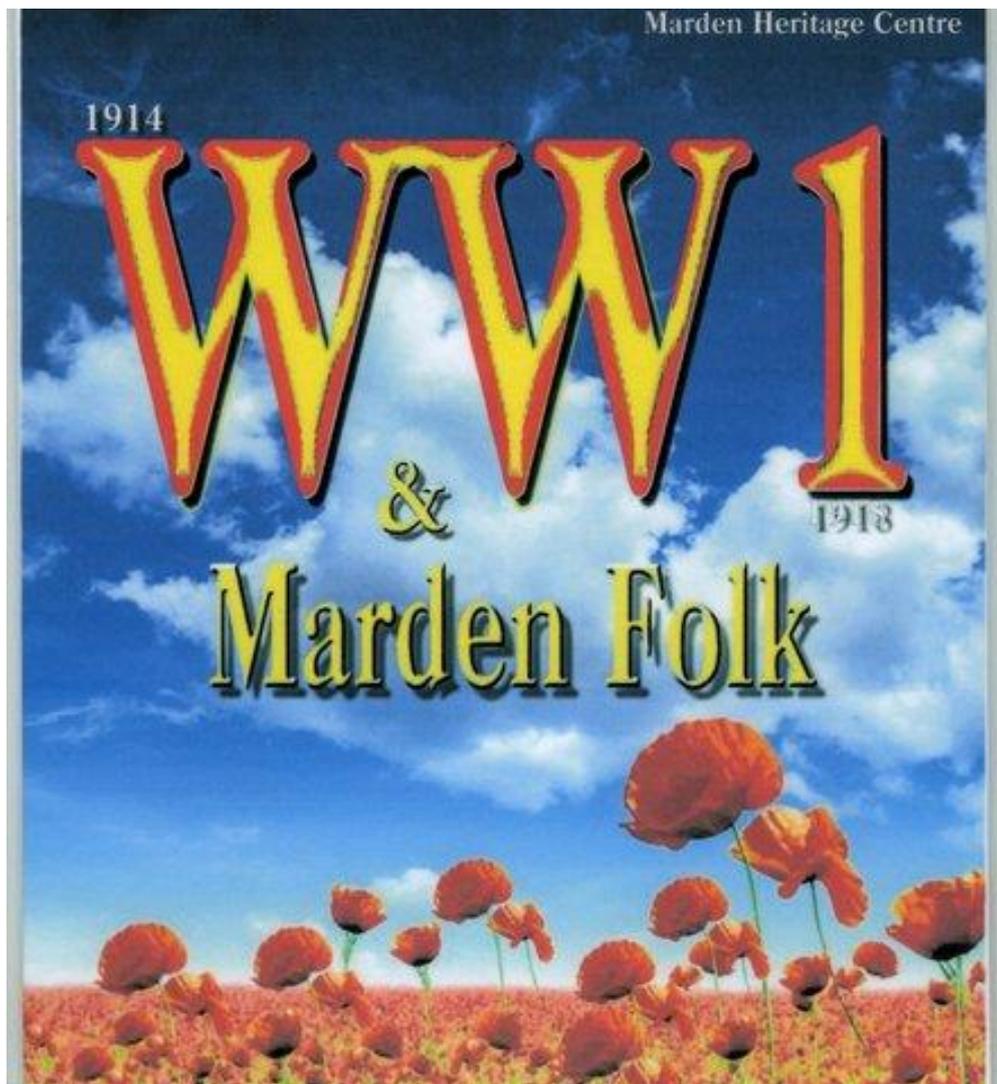


# WORLD WAR I

The impact of the First World War on the residents of Marden



*This booklet has been prepared by Roger and Jenny Mallion as a permanent record of the 'WWI' exhibition held in Marden Library and Heritage Centre. The first Exhibition was opened on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 by Mr. Hammond the local British Legion representative. The second Exhibition was opened by Jo Highwood.*



## TIMELINE

### 1914

- June 29 Great Britain warns Germany that it cannot remain Neutral. German patrols cross the French border.
- Aug 3 Germany declares war on France. Britain gives orders for troops to mobilise.
- Aug 11 “Your King and Country Need You” slogan is published, calling for the first 100,000 men to enlist in Kitchener’s New Army. The call is answered within two weeks.
- Sept 6 The First Battle of Marne checks German advance at the cost of 13,000 British, 250,000 French and 25,000 German casualties.
- Oct 19 First Battle of Ypres.
- Nov 22 Trenches are established along the entire Western Front.

### 1915

- Feb 18 Blockade of Britain by German U-boats begins. All vessels are considered viable targets, including those from neutral countries.
- April 22 Second Battle of Ypres begins. First use of poison gas by Germany.
- May 7 German U-boat torpedoes British liner Lusitania with the loss of American lives, creating a US-German diplomatic crisis.
- May 31 The first Zeppelin raid on London kills 7 and injures 35. British morale is shaken as Germany demonstrates it can attack the capital at will.
- June 30 German troops use flame throwers for the first time against the British lines at Ypres.
- Oct 12 British nurse, Edith Cavell, is executed by German firing squad for helping POWs escape from Belgium to Holland. She becomes a popular martyr and British heroine.

### 1916

- Jan 24 Introducing conscription, the British Government passes the Military Service Act, to become law on 25 May.
- May 31 – June 1 Battle of Jutland. The German High Seas Fleet is forced to retire despite inflicting heavier losses on the Royal Navy (14 ships and 6,100 men), but the German fleet remains irreparably damaged for the rest of the war.
- June 5 T.E. Lawrence aids Hussein, Grand Sharif of Mecca, in the Arab revolt against the Turks in Hejaz. Lord Kitchener sails for Russia on board HMS Hampshire. The ship is mined off Orkney and Kitchener is lost along with 643 other crewmen and general staff.
- June 8 Voluntary Enlistment in Britain is replaced by Compulsion.

- July 1           The Battle of the Somme sees 750,000 Allied soldiers unleashed along a 25 mile front. By the end of the day nearly 60,000 were dead, wounded or missing for very little gain. It is the worst single day's fighting in British Military history.
- Sept 15        The Battle of Flers-Courcelette signifies the start of the third stage of the Somme offensive. Tanks are used for the first time.
- Dec 12         Germany delivers Peace Note to Allies suggesting compromise.

**1917**

- Jan 31         Germany announces the continuation of unrestricted submarine warfare, hoping to starve Britain into submission.
- Feb 3          The United States severs diplomatic relations with Germany.
- Feb 21         The Great German Withdrawal begins.
- March 26       The first Battle of Gaza.
- April 6         US declares war on Germany. Troops begin to mobilise immediately.
- June 13        Germans launch the first major heavy bomber raid over London. Bombs dropped from aircraft kill 162 people and injure 432.
- Oct 26         The Second Battle of Passchendaele begins with 20,000 men advancing. It cost the Allies 12,000 casualties for a gain of a few hundred yards.
- Nov 10         Battle of Passchendaele ends. After months of fighting the Allies have advanced only 5 miles. Half a million men are casualties, of which around 140,000 have been killed.

**1918**

- March 21       The Second Battle of the Somme. Germans attack along a 50 mile front south of Arras.
- May 19         The German Air Force launches its largest and last raid on London. Out of the 33 aircraft, 6 are lost, while 49 civilians are killed and 177 wounded.
- Nov 9          Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates and flees to Holland. Revolution in Berlin breaks out.
- Nov 11         Armistice Day. The Armistice is signed at 5.00am and comes into effect at 11.00am.

**1919**

- Jan 18         Paris Peace Conference begins.
- Feb 14         Draft of the League of Nations completed.
- June 21        German High Seas Fleet scuttled at Scapa Flow.
- June 28        Treaty of Versailles signed.
- July 19         Cenotaph unveiled in London.



## NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS

The following extracts were taken from Local Newspapers.

### MARDEN September 1915

AEROPLANE DOWN. – On Wednesday a biplane, proceeding from Farnborough to Dover, came down at Sheephurst Farm, owing to engine trouble. Mechanics were sent for and subsequently the biplane was conveyed on a motor lorry to Dover.

### MARDEN November 1916

Lieutenant Clive Griffin, the only son of Mr. W Griffin of Folkestone has died of wounds. He was decorated with the Military Cross many months ago for a particularly brave act when an ammunition dump got on fire.

He was in the R.A.F. having enlisted in the East Kent Territorial Royal Fleet Auxiliary (R.F.A.) shortly after the outbreak of hostilities.

He however, transferred in order to go to France early in 1915. He was educated at Tonbridge School.

### MARDEN November 1916

Lance-Corporal Frederick Webb, of the Royal Fusilliers, twin son of Mr. And Mrs. C.M. Webb of 70 Cudworth Road, South Willesborough, as killed in action on October 4<sup>th</sup>. He had been in the Royal Fusilliers since July 1915, and had been in France since February of this year.

### MARDEN 1917

Second Lieutenant W Day, who was severely gassed on September 29<sup>th</sup> in Flanders is now in hospital in London and is slowly recovering. He is a son of Mr Edward Day, of the Thorn, Marden. He joined the West Kent Yeomanry in 1914 and later accepted a commission in the R.F.A.

## AVIATION WORLD WAR I

Marden's first appearance on the aviation scene was in the early months of the First World War. The outbreak of war on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 was soon followed by German air-raids, two on Dover (the second on 21<sup>st</sup> December) and on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1915 a bombing raid by three Zeppelins on Yarmouth. The Admiralty and the War Office began to organize a Home Defence plan, finding



suitable night landing grounds for our fighter aircraft: 140 suitable sites were soon requisitioned.

One of these was Marden. This was a large field at Pagehurst. In early 1918, 141 Squadron R.A.F. was formed at Biggin Hill. Their duties were primarily as night fighters but they also assisted the Wireless School during the day with ground-to-air radio telephone exercises which took them some distance from the airfield. The excellent lunches served at the Station Hotel, Staplehurst, became a good excuse for 'precautionary' landings at Pagehurst. The number of precautionary landings increased over the weeks until one day the CO of 49 Wing developed engine trouble and on landing at Pagehurst asked the Sergeant in charge about the six British fighters neatly lined up.

“They come here regularly, Sir, often more than this lot!” Thereafter it was sausage and mash in the mess.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1918, Second Lieutenant James Philip Owen-Holdsworth MC, 101 Squadron, Royal Air Force died aged 19.

***More information on Second Lieutenant Owen Holdsworth and other Marden casualties can be found in the Marden Heritage Centre Publication “The Fallen of Marden 1914 -1919”.***

### **Captain James Day MC**

Captain James Day MC, Royal Flying Corps, was the youngest son of Edward and Alice Mary Day of the Thorn, Marden. He went to France with the newly formed 102 Squadron on September 18<sup>th</sup> 1917 – the first squadron to drop bombs at night. He was 20 years old. James carried out 50 night-raids – only 4 of which were unsuccessful. He was on 17 raids in 6 nights during the first week of the German advance on the Somme. James was awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre with palm: a French military decoration for gallantry to recognize acts of bravery in the face of the enemy specifically mentioned in dispatches.

### **Sidney William Highwood**

Captain Sidney William Highwood 1896 – 1975 joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1917 and was posted to 84 Squadron on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1918 .During 1918 he downed 7 German aircraft and 9 balloons and was awarded the Distinguished Flying cross with Bar. He was described as “a courageous officer, a skillful and bold fighter”.

### **Percy Wilden Judd**

First World War service Aircraftsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Percy Wilden Judd served in No 8 Squadron Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) in France and Belgium. Percy was involved in the servicing and recovery of the squadron’s aircraft.

***The Marden Heritage Centre has produced publications on the lives of both Percy Wilden Judd and Captain James Day. A booklet has also been produced on Sidney Highwood for the information of the new residents of the 2015 Highwood Green housing development in Marden.***

## **MARDEN’S SURVIVORS**

### **An Extract from the Daily Chronicle 18<sup>th</sup> December 1914**

Private Frederick Birkin of the Grenadier Guards, Lance Corporal Joseph Russell of the 1<sup>st</sup> South Staffordshires and Sergeant Frederick Baker (from Marden) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordshire Regiment were taken prisoner during a charge the German’s made on the Highland Light Infantry in the woods 4 miles north of Ypres. After appalling treatment at the hands of the Germans they planned to escape. On a foggy day they made a dash for it. Two of their colleagues were killed and Fred Baker was shot in the hand. Private Birkin, Lance Corporal Russell and Sergeant Baker boarded a train and landed up in Dunkirk station and slept the night on the station bench. In the morning they were directed to the Naval Hospital at Malo where they recovered.

### **THE EDMONDS FAMILY**

Private Albert Edmonds of the Buffs, who was killed in action on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1916 was the third son of Mr and Mrs Edmonds of Turkey Farm. He had a brother in the Army, Private George Edmonds of the Royal West Kent Regiment, who was invalided out after serving in India and Mesopotamia.

## COLLINS BROTHERS

Four Collins brothers, Charles, George, Ernest, and Edward, all went to war and all four came back.



*Charles*



*George*



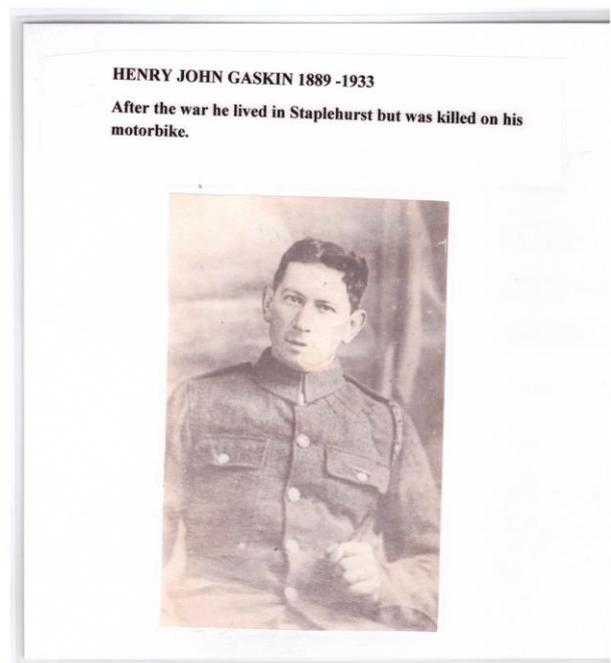
*Ernest*

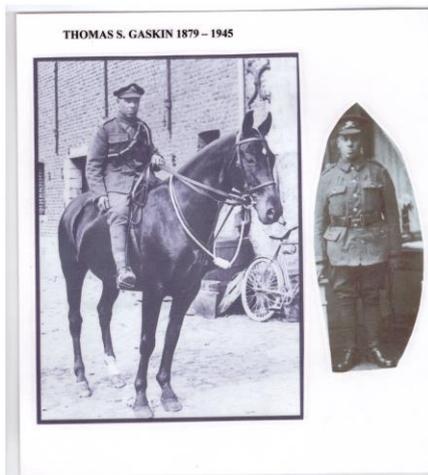


*Edward*

## THE GASKIN FAMILY

The Gaskin family had five go to war and they all came back.





## **BERTIE WHITTLE**

Bertie Whittle was in the Royal Horse Artillery. His father later arranged for him to be transferred to the Royal Engineers. The Artillery Unit suffered heavy losses soon after his transfer. His father also served in the First World War. He was a train driver in civilian life.

## **TOM PERT**

Another notable survivor was Tom Pert. He joined the Navy under age and was sent home with a shrapnel wound in the leg. He joined up again in WWII and went to North Africa. Tom was an excellent Chess Player. He was the father of John and Norman. John became the Post Master in Marden.

## **THOSE WERE THE DAYS EXTRACTS – taped conversations with Marden residents.**

**These taped conversations gave insight into what life was like for those left behind during and after the First World War.**

### **Gladys Wilmshurst**

Gladys was born in 1913, so her memories give us an insight into the school days around the end of the First World. Gladys relates how her father was killed in the First World War and her mother was unable to work due to ill health and they had to manage on a War Pension.

### **Graham Tippen**

Graham relates that after the First World War, with the prospect of two sons coming home, F W Tippen started Tippen and Sons local garage and haulage business. It became very successful and was initially based at what is called the Old Market Depot, exactly opposite the Post Office and next to the Unicorn. At the same time they purchased a petrol station which was at the other end of the village. Remember this is the early 1920s and there were not many cars on the road but what cars there were obviously needed petrol from somewhere. "Here they sold petrol and repaired cars."

### **Elsie Eltringham**

Elsie remembers the first people to have a car were at Glennings in Hunton. It was an open thing with running boards and two cans of petrol used to stand on the running boards. The women used to have big hats with veils tied round and goggles.

She remembers the first radio called The Wireless and going to the cinema called The Pictures in Maidstone and watching silent films. There was always a pianist and they played loudly when it was urgent and softly when not.

## Frank Collins

Frank was born at Chainhurst Farm in 1905, the third son of a family of nine. He was 9 years old when the First World War began. As the war went on so the men on the farms got less and less: his dad was in a reserved occupation, charcoal burning for the farmers around.

Frank's two older brothers were boy scouts and had to walk a certain distance along the main road to report if the telephone wires had been tampered with by any Germans.

In the winter of 1917, Frank's father and two of the boys were charcoal burning for the Government (twig charcoal for making gunpowder). It was well paid work but when the war ended in 1918, the work came to an end the same day.

***Extracts from the Heritage Centre publication "Frank Collins Life Story" also give some fascinating insight to rural life during that era.***

***The Heritage Centre publication "Those were the days" contains these and other fascinating accounts of life in Marden during this time***

## BRITISH CAMPAIGN MEDALS OF WWI

There were five campaign medals available for individuals who saw service in the First World War. An individual, male or female, could be issued with a maximum of three of these medals, although there were a small number of exceptions to the rule.

The troops had special names for The 1914 Star, The British War Medal, 1914-18 and The Allied Victory Medal. They were Pip Squeak and Wilfred. If war and victory medals were issued together they were called Mutt and Jeff.



1914 Star



British War Medal



Allied Victory Medal

Other medals which were awarded were The Territorial Force War Medal, 1914-1919, The Silver War Badge and The Mercantile Marine War Medal.

The Special Constable Medal was awarded to Thomas Butcher of Marden.



medal-mercantile-marine-200

*The Mercantile Marine Medal*



2789 Special constable

*Special Constable Medal*

## LOAN OF ARTEFACTS

Many local residents loaned artefacts.

A war veteran of the Afghanistan War, as part of his trauma therapy, has been collecting WWI memorabilia and kindly lent it for the exhibition, including a WWI uniform. John Gaskin, who's relative had been in the veterinary Corp, loaned a WWI helmet and a tool for giving pills to horses.

A Next of Kin Memorial Plaque or Black Penny was also loaned by a local resident.



*Next of Kin Memorial Plaque*

These were awarded to the relatives of the servicemen who had been killed in the Great War. They were also known as The Dead Man's Penny.

## FARMING AND CROPS

In 1917 the Board of Agriculture appointed a Hop Controller, George Foster Clark of Maidstone to set the price of hops. Hop acreage was to be cut to half the 1914 level, a strange decision, which must have been regretted by the armed services and was certainly not repeated for the Second World War. The growers, however, appreciated the price which Foster Clark fixed for 1918 £16.10s (£16.50) per hundredweight. It must have sweetened the job of grubbing good hop gardens. Wages fell from 39 shillings to 27 shillings in 1923 and wheat prices fell from 75s 6d (£3.78) in 1919 to 40s (£2) in 1921.

## Marden Gift Sale

**Held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1916**

This was an auction mainly of livestock and produce including poultry, pigs, sheep and calves together with different varieties of apples, potatoes and other vegetables. Also for sale were farm equipment, fruit trees, veterinary medicines and other items donated by individuals or businesses including items of clothing, books and leather goods.



# Bread Account for Hopping

Balance Sheet of the 27 <sup>th</sup> Year of the marden				Dapthhurst and Collier's Agricultural Association			
Receipts				Expenditure			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance at Bank in hand 1916	18	14	7	Prize money			
Annual Subscriptions	95	4	6	To Employees:-			
Donations for Special Prizes:-				Playing Classes	25	0	6
In advance	3	0	0	Hopedripping	26	5	0
Horses	6	11	6	Sheepheads	6	15	0
Fruit	12	7	6	Thatching	3	15	0
Roots	5	3	6	Meritorious Service	7	0	0
Turnout of Teams	3	18	0	Best turnout of Teams	3	18	0
Entrance Fees				Cash to Slaughtermen	1	4	0
Gate money Fruit Tent				Cash to Unsuccessful	14	0	74 6 6
Sale of Hop Samples				To members:-			
				Horse Classes	10	11	6
				Fruit	6	10	0
				Root	5	0	0
				Special Prizes:-			
The Catalogue account:-				Fruit Classes	12	7	6
Received for advertising	27	15	0	Root	4	13	6
" " Net Sale of Catalogues		12		27 <sup>th</sup> Ann. Sub to R. on Benevolent Inst.			5 5 0
less Cost of Printing Catalogue:-	28	7	0	Hire of Fruit Tent			5 0 0
Dickinson	18	12	6	Printing (Dickinson)			12 18 0
Profit to Association			9 14 6	Cost. Sec. Honorarium Treas.			6 0 0
				Expenses Show Day			5 9 0
				Postage Telegrams & Telephones			3 9 2
				Advertising			2 17 6
				Cheque Book			4 0 0
				Small Bills			1 1 0
				Deficit on Bread % for Hop Pickers			11 4 0
				Cash at Bank in Hand 1917	27	17	1
					£184	1	1

## The Bread account Hopping 1916.

Receipts				Expenditure			
Date	Description	£	s.	Date	Description	£	s.
Sept. 14	Bread Sold	17	10	Sept 14	Bread Bought	30	12
" 15	"	20	17	" 20	"	43	0
" 18	"	17	10	Nov 4	"	12	0
" 27	"	9	18	7	Bag Deficiency		14
Oct. 24	"	19	14		Rail carriage		
Nov. 20	"	4	17		on Bread from Ashford	4	12
	Deficiency Subs						
	Deficit to Bles (1/2 6)						
	as per n/c						
		£90	18			£90	18
			10				10

Flax Day Collected 1916

## HOW WWI IMPACTED ON MARDEN VILLAGE

The women left behind had to fill the gaps by keeping the homes and jobs for the men to come back to. It was hard to adjust to getting back to normal afterwards.

The old and infirm were needed to work the land and farmers had to bridge the gap left by the loss of imports.

When the men returned, many were sick, injured, shell-shocked and war-weary. There were too many women and not enough men.

## **Welcome home party**

### **August 1919 summary**

The people of Marden gave a splendid welcome home to all their returned soldiers and sailors.

Invitation cards were red for soldiers, blue for sailors and the ladies had white.

A good feast was prepared for all the returned soldiers and sailors and widows and children of those soldiers and sailors who had died.

The residents subscribed generously to a fund and there were also gifts. Mr. Chambers gave a fat bullock and Mr. Powell gave the bread.

There was an official welcome and it was evident that Marden was proud to welcome the soldiers and sailors.

At two o'clock the wives and children sat down to a sumptuous dinner in a marquee adjoining the meadow.

The Paddock Wood Band played during the day and the evening.

From 3.30 to 5.00 p.m. excellent entertainment was given by clowns.

At 7 o'clock the returned soldiers and sailors sat down to a meal. Mr. Honess, Chairman of the Parish Council, and the Rev. R. E. Johnston, the Vicar, made speeches and thanked them on behalf of the residents of Marden for their brave services.

About 1,000 people attended the dinner and 2,000 the concert later.

Everything was carried out in a most orderly and efficient manner and the day would long be remembered as one of the brightest and enjoyable days in the history of Marden.

**The following publications have been produced by The Marden History Group and are available to purchase in the Heritage Centre in Marden Library**

The Fallen of Marden 1914 - 1919

Captain James Day

Percy Wilden Judd

A booklet has also been produced on Sidney Highwood for the information of the new residents of the 2015 Highwood Green housing development in Marden.

Those were the Days extracts – taped conversations with Marden residents.

Frank Collins' Life Story.

**The Exhibition was based upon the need to record the people of Marden's contribution to World War One.**



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