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## Thames and the Great War<sup>i</sup>

The First World War was a difficult period in the history of Thames Hare and Hounds. When Britain entered the conflict in August 1914, our self-imposed exile from the wider athletic world was still at its peak. This exile had started 30 years previously, hastened in part by Walter Rye's refusal for Thames to entertain anything that fell outside of the very strictest definition of amateurism and had contributed in no small part of our near brush with oblivion in 1895.

Between 15<sup>th</sup> January 1898 (when we were defeated by Lea Harriers at Chingford) and 1<sup>st</sup> April 1922 (when we were defeated by Orion Harriers, again at Chingford), the club had no contact with a non-academic club (i.e. Oxford, Cambridge or the public schools), other than an inter-club run with Blackheath Harriers in November 1902 and the two matches with Racing Club de France in 1910 and 1911. It is not difficult to imagine why the club was in a perilous position.

By 1914, things had improved - albeit marginally - largely as a result of the migration of the University Race to Roehampton in 1896, which had increased the flow of Oxford and Cambridge runners to the club quite substantially.

Despite this, when Britain declared war on Germany, the club had only 109 members on the books, of which only about 40 could be in any way described as regular, and it is not difficult to understand why the four years of conflict put the club under enormous strain, particularly as by 1915 almost all of the younger members were away on active service.

However, little of this concerned the club's members too much as they gathered for the opening run and Annual General Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1914, just over two months into the conflict. As the club's minute books record:

“...the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed, much amusement being caused by the references therein to the Olympic Games at Berlin in 1916.”

Despite this levity, a decision was taken at this meeting - given that many members had already volunteered for service - that all inter-club, handicap and challenge races for the coming season should be abandoned and a fixture card for the first half of the season was duly published, which contained only the word “Paperchase” against each date.

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<sup>i</sup> The First World War is covered in more detail in Chapter X of *The Annals of Thames Hare and Hounds* (1968).

However, the club did keep going and at the end of the first war season, the Honorary Secretary, Howard Tindall<sup>ii</sup>, who himself was later to lose his life on the Western Front, was able to report that:

“Runs were held every Saturday from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> April, with the exception of 26<sup>th</sup> December and 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the largest number present on any occasion being eight. There was one most enjoyable outlying run at Oxshott, when W.J.B.Tippetts again received us with his usual hospitality.”

By the following season, attendances were down to - at best - a handful of runners and in October 1915, the decision was taken to continue with only one run monthly. The club was kept going by a select band of the older members, including Sydney Sarel and R.H. “Goudie” Watson. This trend continued until the end of the war. It was not until the early months of 1919 that things started to pick up, partly with the arrival of D.M.Butt from St. Paul’s School and partly through the return of members from the war. At the Annual General Meeting in October 1919, it was resolved that both Sarel and Watson should receive a gold medal in recognition of the great service to the club during the dark days and these were duly presented at the Reunion Dinner, held at the Café Royal on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1919.

The club’s real revival did not begin until 1922 when Harry Hall - who had run for Cambridge in the final University Race before the conflict - made his first appearance at Roehampton. He took on the Secretary’s role in 1923 and also served as President of the South of the Thames Cross Country Association (1930-31) and Secretary (1931-44) and President (1933-34) of the Southern Counties’ Cross-Country Association. Under his influence, an application was made in 1923 to join the latter body. The line had been breached, the club’s exile was finally on the wane and the foundations for future success had started to be laid.

Over the years 1914 to 1918, a total of 51 members saw active service, of whom 15 gave their lives (as well as two recent former members that we know of).

It is only right that 100 years later we commemorate their sacrifice.

Simon Molden  
Honorary Secretary  
August 2014

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<sup>ii</sup> He succeeded H.G.Kenyon in October 1914.

## Our Casualties of the Great War

### John Euel Witherden BATH

Elected: January 1914  
Regiment: Royal Berkshire Regiment  
Rank: Captain  
Died: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1915  
Age: 22

John Bath was educated at Sir William Borlase Grammar School, Marlow, Shrewsbury School and All Souls College Oxford, where he was a Bible Clerk. He ran for Oxford in the 34<sup>th</sup> University Race in December 1913, finishing tenth in a contest that Oxford lost by 26 points to 29, their first defeat since 1907. This performance was not reflective of his ability and as *The Morning Post* reported, he "...had a fine raking stride and usually had a sprint left for the finish of a stiff run across country."<sup>iii</sup>



After having joined the army in August 1914, he won the Aldershot Championship Cross-Country Race at Reading in March 1915, just nine months before he died. In December 1915, he was killed instantly when he was struck by a fragment of high-explosive shell while taking his Commanding Officer around the trenches in the early morning. His Commanding Officer wrote:

"Your son's death is a terrible loss to the regiment; always cheerful - never sick or sorry - never making difficulties, for one so young he had a wonderful capacity for command. Everybody loved him."

His father - in response to the report of his death in *The Sportsman* - wrote:

"To die for King and Country is the sweetest death. What can a man do more? And my beloved boy, who so cheerfully and unreservedly made the great sacrifice, bids us 'carry on,' and so consummate the work which he and hundreds of other sportsmen have so nobly toiled - even unto death."<sup>iv</sup>

He is buried at the Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Givenchy.



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<sup>iii</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> December 1915.

<sup>iv</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> January 1916.

## **Roland Herbert Wyndham BRINSLEY-RICHARDS**

Elected: November 1911  
Regiment: Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)  
Rank: Second Lieutenant  
Died: 30<sup>th</sup> July 1916  
Age: 29

Roland Brinsley-Richards was born in Austria on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1887 and was educated at the King's School, Canterbury and The Queen's and Hertford Colleges, Oxford. He first ran for Thames against Wellington College in 1912 and his last appearance was in February 1913. At Oxford, he was a member of the Hertford College Hare and Hounds "A" Team, although he never appeared for the Dark Blues in the University Race.



After Oxford, he spent six months in 1910 working as a journalist at *The Times* before taking up an appointment as a junior clerk in the India Office in 1911 having passed 38<sup>th</sup> in the civil service examinations. He was appointed Resident Clerk in 1912 and in June 1913 he became private secretary to the Permanent Under-Secretary for State.

In early 1915, he received permission to undertake military service and on 7<sup>th</sup> June he enlisted in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps. On 10<sup>th</sup> September, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Tenth Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He embarked for France on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1916.

On the night of the 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> July, the battalion was involved in a night raid on the German trenches opposite. The objective was to capture the German trench known as Munster Alley and also part of Gloucester Alley. One company was detailed to attack each trench with the other two companies held in reserve. The attack began at 10 p.m. and, in the Munster Alley attack, one platoon bombed its way along the trench while the other three platoons of the company went over the top. These three platoons lost all their officers, the Company Sergeant Major and all their non-commissioned officers to machine gun fire. Brinsley-Richards was one of those officers and it would seem most likely that he died that night although his date of death was officially given as the 30<sup>th</sup> July.

The Secretary of State at the India Office wrote to his parents that:

"Mr Chamberlain heard that your son had been reported missing with the keenest regret and concern. He is well aware that his services here were most highly and deservedly valued, and your

son's determination to leave his secure position for active service was a very fine example of gallantry and high spirit, commanding his deep respect."

*The Cantuarian*" wrote:

"When in training as an officer he wrote - 'I have not had such a good time since Oxford days.' Kitchener's Army gave him the two things he loved - comradeship and a chance to play the man. On July 29<sup>th</sup> 1916, he led his men in a night attack on a German trench. The attack failed but he won a hero's death. A friend said of him - 'Whatever may have befallen him will have found him ready and unafraid.'"

George Heale, who was at school and served with him wrote:

"Knowing of his brilliant school career I was not surprised at the wonderful way he undertook soldiering, or his power of grasping situations, and adapting himself to them. He was as brave as a lion, and during his short time with us he gained the liking and admiration of all."

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and the War Memorial in Guildford.



### **Hugh St. Pierre BUNBURY**

Elected: March 1905  
Regiment: Royal Field Artillery  
Rank: Second Lieutenant  
Died: 25<sup>th</sup> August 1916  
Age: 33

Hugh Bunbury was educated at Clifton College, Cope's Studio and the Royal Academy School. He joined Thames in March 1905. Professionally, he was a painter, and his picture "Victory", which illustrated the close of the Battle of Friedland, was hung in the Royal Academy in 1910, followed by Les Invalides at Paris. *The Annals of Thames Hare and Hounds* records that he was a fairly irregular runner with the club. He was twice mentioned in the Secretary's reports, firstly in 1911 - "Bunbury had a large picture in this year's



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<sup>v</sup> The King's School magazine.

Academy” - and when he died in 1916 - “...a good athlete and attended our runs on many occasions.” However, beyond this, there is no other surviving record that he ever ran with the Club.

He was killed when on observational duty in the front line. A fellow officer wrote of him:

“His constant cheeriness has been the life and soul of our little party and he was most useful in turning his hand to anything that required doing ... He would always be the first on the spot to help a wounded comrade.”<sup>vi</sup>

He is buried in the Étaples Military Cemetery.



### **John James CRAGGS**

Elected: October 1908  
Regiment: King's Royal Rifle Corps  
Rank: Second Lieutenant  
Died: 17<sup>th</sup> February 1917  
Age: 29

John Craggs was educated at Winchester College and joined Thames in 1908; however, he only ran for the club on a few occasions. He was a prominent member of the London Rowing Club, which he represented at Henley from 1909 to 1911 and in 1913 and 1914. He was articled as an accountant to Sir William Plender, and later entered his father's firm (Craggs, Turketine & Co.), in which he ultimately became a partner.



He was killed at the head of his platoon on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1917, while serving with the First Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. His commanding officer wrote to his parents:

“Your son had only been a very short time with us, but we all liked him very much, and he would have made a very good officer. Before we attacked, we had to lie in the open for sometime under heavy shell-fire, and your son did very good work in going about

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<sup>vi</sup> From the Western Daily Press, 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

encouraging the men. He was killed at the very commencement of the attack.”

He is buried at the Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension and is commemorated on the war memorial in St Jude’s Church, South Kensington.



### **Herbert Field ETHERINGTON**

Elected: October 1909  
Regiment: Dragoon Guards (Queen’s Bays)  
Rank: Second Lieutenant  
Died: 8<sup>th</sup> January 1916  
Age: 27

Herbert Etherington was educated at Marlborough College and joined the club in October 1909. He was a prominent member, finishing second in the Short Distance Challenge (and winning the handicap) on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1911. He was Assistant Secretary<sup>vii</sup> from 1910-14. His love of running had been nurtured while at school:

“For myself at Marlborough I remember best many sporting Saturdays and muddy miles after hounds in the Forest and Martinsell way, and I wish to bring to the notice of such kindred spirits, the Thames Hare and Hounds club - the oldest Club of its kind.”<sup>viii</sup>

On leaving Marlborough, he initially started training for the legal profession; however, after the death of his father he abandoned this for journalism. He became a member of the publishers, Herbert Reiach.

After gaining his Commission, he had great success at Aldershot in training his men for cross-country. After being posted to the Western Front, he was killed when struck in the head by a piece of shell while in the Hohenzollern Redoubt on 7<sup>th</sup> January. He fell immediately and died the following day in hospital having never regained consciousness. He is buried in the Étaples Military Cemetery.



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<sup>vii</sup> Now Fixtures Secretary.

<sup>viii</sup> From The Marlburian, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1914.



## **Arthur HOWARD**

Elected: February 1914  
Regiment: Royal Fusiliers  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Died: 11<sup>th</sup> September 1923  
Age: 38

Arthur Howard was the son of Sir Ebenezer Howard, a founder of the Garden City Movement. He was educated at Haileybury and Christ Church, Oxford. He was something of an all-round sportsman. While at Oxford, he played rugby for the Dark Blues in their 17 points to nil victory in the 37<sup>th</sup> 'Varsity Match at Queen's Club in 1907. In cricket, he played in the O.U.C.C. Freshmen's match of 1905 and the Seniors' Match of 1908. After university, he continued to play rugby for Harlequins and Kent. His involvement with Thames was fleeting; having been elected on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1914, he managed to take part in the Shere Run on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1914 before the outbreak of war. In his professional life, he worked for the publisher, Messrs Morrison and Gibb Ltd of London.



He joined up in July 1915 and was severely wounded at the Battle of the Somme in 1917; however, he did not die until six years later at St. Wilfrid's Lodge in Bexhill on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1923.

He is buried at St. Mark's Churchyard, Bexhill.



## **Arthur George KNIGHT**

Elected: December 1911  
Regiment: Royal Fusiliers  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Died: 29<sup>th</sup> June 1915  
Age: 25

Arthur Knight was born in San Francisco in 1889. He moved to England as a boy and aged 16 won a London County Council scholarship to Dulwich College. From there, he won a further scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford. He ran for the Dark Blues (finishing tenth) in their convincing victory in the 30<sup>th</sup> University Race in December 1909. At Thames, he won the Long Distance Challenge on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1912.

After leaving Oxford, he spent some time as a private tutor and some travelling, before becoming Assistant Master at Rossall School in Lancashire in 1913. On the outbreak of war, he enlisted as a Private in the London Rifle Brigade before securing a Commission in the Royal Fusiliers in October 1914. In early 1915, he won the Regimental Championship Cross-Country Championship (held under the auspices of the Southern Counties' Cross-Country Association) at Shorncliffe in Kent, beating amongst others, fellow Oxonian and Thames man, John Bath (see above).



He departed for France on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1915 and was killed less than a month later on 29<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 a.m., while holding a fort in the trenches east of Ploegsteert under heavy fire from the Germans.

The day before his death, he wrote to his mother:

“Can’t write a long letter after all, as there is such a lot to do here with a green officer looking after green men in a very novel position that I have little time for anything but eating and sleeping.

As I told you, we are in a sort of fort with the Germans very close at hand and I find myself transformed in a moment into an engineer planning to repair and improve defences, a mortar sniper seeking methods to circumvent and destroy Hunneth sniper, a wet nurse for my men, more or less helpless - everything new. I have to learn my job & carry on at the same time! However, I have been doing much the same for a long time, so that I am fairly used to it.”<sup>ix</sup>

Following his death, the President of Magdalen College, Thomas Warren, wrote of him:

“Of keen and distinguished ability, he was much too inclined to follow the lines of his own intellectual interest, and this led to him missing a First Class, though he showed [an] unusual gift for research, in which he would probably have done well.”

He is buried in the Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery.



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<sup>ix</sup> From papers held in the Magdalen College archive.

## **Cuthbert St. John NEVILL**

Elected: December 1906  
Regiment: Royal Field Artillery  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Died: 18<sup>th</sup> April 1918  
Age: 29

Cuthbert Nevill was educated at Uppingham School and joined the club in 1906. He won the Short Distance Handicap on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1911 and also finished third in the Short Distance Challenge in 1907 and second in the Long Distance Challenge in 1913.

When the war broke out, he had been for some years a member of the London Stock Exchange and a partner in the firm of W.P.Nevill, Horley & Co. He was also a member of the Honourable Artillery Company and volunteered for foreign service.



He was first sent to Egypt and then Aden. In 1916, he was given a commission in the Royal Field Artillery and sent to France and was killed on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1918 on the Béthune front. A fellow officer wrote of him:

“I have learned what a tower of strength he was to all he commanded. He was the most conscientious and capable officer in the battery and the major’s right hand, and I can honestly say he was the most liked officer in the battery by all the men.”

He is buried at Chocques Military Cemetery.



### **Thomas Guy POCOCK**

Elected: February 1914  
Regiment: The King's (Liverpool Regiment)  
Rank: Second Lieutenant  
Died: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1915  
Age: 26

Thomas Pocock was born in Hong Kong and was educated at New College School and New College, Oxford. He finished ninth for the Dark Blues in the 33<sup>rd</sup> University Match in December 1912 and was reserve in the preceding and following years. He was also a member of our rivals, Ranelagh Harriers.

He died in hospital in Rouen in April 1915 of wounds he received at Neuve Chapelle. He is buried in the St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen.



### **Frank Douglas SOWERBY**

Elected: July 1916  
Regiment: The Queen's Own Hussars  
Rank: Second Lieutenant  
Died: 1<sup>st</sup> August 1916  
Age: 29

Frank Sowerby was educated at Uppingham School and joined Thames in July 1906. Over the next six seasons, he was an active member of the club and one of the more successful, winning two Long Distance Challenge Cups, in December 1909 and December 1910. He last ran for the Thames on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1912. He was also a member of South London Harriers, whom he joined in 1908. In 1910, he won their Fowler-Dixon Cup, finished sixth in the four miles at the A.A.A. Championships and was awarded his S.L.H. club colours.



He was a member of the Architectural Association and on the outbreak of war, he joined the Inns of Court O.T.C. He was sent to France in February 1915 where he was awarded the Legion of Honour (Croix de Chevalier) and also mentioned in Lord French's last dispatches. On 27<sup>th</sup> July 1916, he was wounded while in charge of a Company of Lancashire Fusiliers near Guillemont on the Somme and

died five days later on 1<sup>st</sup> August, aged 29. He is buried in the Abbeville Communal Cemetery.

In his obituary in the October 1916 S.L.H. Gazette, he was described as “...jumping into prominence as a cross-country runner, having many a tussle with Ayres.”<sup>x</sup>



### **Cautley TATHAM**

Elected: December 1906  
Regiment The Honourable Artillery Company  
Rank: Captain  
Died: 18<sup>th</sup> June 1915  
Age: 29

Cautley Tatham was educated at Rugby School and New College, Oxford. While at university, he ran against Thames in the matches in November 1905 and 1906, and was reserve for the Dark Blues for the 1905 and 1907 University Races. He joined the club in December 1906 and became, “...a much beloved member till the time of his death.”<sup>xi</sup> He ran in the match between Thames and Racing Club de France at the Bois de Saint Cloud in Paris on Easter Sunday 1910 and the return at Roehampton the following March.



After taking his degree, he followed his father’s career as a solicitor in London, and took a keen interest in the Church Lads’ Brigade and in the work of the Cavendish Club and of the Oxford Mission.

In 1909, he joined the Honourable Artillery Company, in which he rose to be Sergeant and for whom he won the Telegraph Cup in 1914. On the outbreak of War, he was one of the first to volunteer for foreign service. He was given a Commission, and went to the Western Front in September 1914, and was in the trenches all through the following winter. He was promoted Lieutenant in March 1915, and for some time before his death had been acting as Captain.

In the Battle of Hooge he led the Company, of which he was Second in Command, in storming the German trenches, and while directing operations for protecting his men

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<sup>x</sup> Stanley Frank Ayres.

<sup>xi</sup> From *Memorials of Rugbeians who fell in the Great War*.

in the second line of captured trenches, he was mortally wounded. He fell on 16<sup>th</sup> June and died in hospital at Ballieul two days later.

After his death, his Colonel said:

“He was one of the bravest and most gallant Officers in his Regiment, a true, unselfish gentleman; and a fine Officer, who thoroughly knew his duties. He was beloved by all.”

An Officer at the War Office wrote:

“I have been immensely struck by the repeated testimony to his value as an Officer and the respect in which he was held. I think it was all best summed up by a Corporal whom I saw recently. ‘Tatham? Yes, I should think I did know him. Best Officer we had. With some Officers, if they went out wiring at night, or on any special job, the whole Regiment knew about it before and afterwards. When Tatham went out, no one knew except the three men he took with him.’ That seems to me about as good a testimonial from the men’s point of view as any Officer could ever get.”

A measure of his popularity was given by the many letters of condolence (between 700 and 800) received by his parents. A regimental application was made after his death that he should be gazetted Captain and he was so promoted in January 1916. He is buried in the Ballieul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord.



### **Howard Simson TINDALL**

Elected: January 1907  
Regiment: Royal Berkshire Regiment  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Died: 31<sup>st</sup> July 1917  
Age: 33

Howard Tindall was educated at Haileybury and Pembroke College, Cambridge. In his time at the club, he won two Long Distance Handicaps, in December 1908 and March 1912 and was part of the team that ran against Racing Club de France in Paris in 1910. He also was the first man home in the Short Distance Challenge in October 1909; however, the leaders had strayed off course and a *no race* was declared.

He became Honorary Secretary of the club in 1914 and, as *The Annals* reported:

“The new Secretary, H.S.Tindall, stands out as one of the great ones of the Club. Apart from his personal attendances at Roehampton in the fifteen months to the end of 1915 (twenty-one out of a possible twenty-eight) he initiated a regular system of circular letters to members to keep them in touch with the Club, and organized the skeleton system of attendances which ensured its continuity. In the ambitious scheme of a run every Saturday in the first war year he was ably assisted by a few members, in particular, F.A.N.Pedder, H.E.Strickland, T.V.Chapman and a new man, B.Park, who joined in November 1914, put in seventeen runs by the end of the season and never came back.”

After university, he became a partner in the family firm of Balliere, Tindall and Cox, who were scientific and medical publishers. At the outbreak of war, he volunteered for service and was soon posted to France. Having survived the Somme and much fighting on the Messines Ridge, he was killed during the advance on Lens, while acting as Brigade Signalling Officer. He was buried on the battlefield.



Shortly after the war, his brother Bertie received a letter from a young Lieutenant-Colonel in his regiment:

“I am sorry I do not know to whom I am writing, except that you are the next of kin to the late Lieu. H.S.Tindall...who was a fellow office of mine and fell quite close to me on July 31<sup>st</sup> 1917. Shortly after the action we put up three crosses at the spot in the battlefield where Tindall, my own brother A.H.Hudson and another officer named Tarrant were killed...”

He went on to say that the crosses were destroyed by later shelling, but that he had had them reinstated in early 1919. He mentioned that he had asked an army padre to say a few words and that, “I was very glad while putting up a cross for my brother also to put one up for Tindall.”<sup>xii</sup>

He is now buried in the Hooge Crater Cemetery.



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<sup>xii</sup> From *Footprints in Paris: A Few Streets, A Few Lives*, by Gillian Tindall.

## Edward Percy TURNER

Elected: November 1908  
Regiment: Royal Field Artillery  
Rank: Captain  
Died: 19<sup>th</sup> March 1917  
Age: 27

Teddy Turner was educated at Wellington College and Christ's College, Cambridge. He was elected to Thames in November 1908 - while still a student - and was selected to run for the Light Blues in the 32<sup>nd</sup> University Race in December 1911. It was not a happy day for him or Cambridge. Fancied by some to win the race, due to his knowledge of the Thames courses, he fell at Beverley Brook and never recovered, struggling on to finish ninth in his team's heavy 16 points to 39 defeat.



He ran regularly for Thames for three seasons from his election, securing significant success, including three Short Distance Challenges (November 1909, January 1910, October 1910), two Long Distance Challenges (March 1909, February 1910) and two Short Distance Handicaps (November 1909, January 1910). He also appeared in both races against Racing Club de France in 1910 and 1911. After coming down from Cambridge, he moved to Japan and was not seen at the club again.

At the outbreak of the war, he returned from Japan and joined the Royal Field Artillery. He was posted to the Western Front in June 1915. In early February 1916, he found himself in need of resurrecting his old cross-country skills, as reported by *The Sportsman*:

“Recently Turner found a road along which he was riding so heavily shelled that his instinct as an old cross-country runner induced him to make the best of his way over the plough for the remainder of the distance, although in doing so he had to carry his bicycle.”<sup>xiii</sup>

Following his death, the master of Christ' College, Arthur Shipley, wrote to his mother<sup>xiv</sup>:

“I am quite heartbroken about my dear Teddy. From the first moment I saw him I liked him & the longer I knew him the more I loved & respected him. He was such a splendid fellow!

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<sup>xiii</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> February 1916.

<sup>xiv</sup> From papers held in the Imperial War Museum archive



Please accept on behalf of the College & myself our deepest & sincerest sympathy.”

He was buried in the Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe and is also commemorated in the Kobe Foreigners' Cemetery in Japan.



### **Harold Edward VOELCKER**

Elected: February 1914  
Regiment: South Lancashire Regiment  
Rank: Second Lieutenant  
Died: 20<sup>th</sup> July 1916  
Age: 22

Harold Voelcker was educated at Rugby School and Christ's College, Cambridge and joined the club in February 1914. He was the son Dr. John Augustus Voelcker, who was one of the major figures of the club's first half-century and Honorary Treasurer from 1897-1937. Given how close to the war he joined Thames, his competitive appearances were limited, although he did run against Rugby School in 1914.



On the outbreak of the war, he obtained a Commission in the Sixth Battalion, The South Lancashire Regiment and went to Gallipoli in July 1915. After being wounded there in August, he was found to be suffering from typhoid fever and was invalided home. On recovery, and after some service in England, he was attached to the Seventh Battalion and was sent to France in February 1916. He took part in the Battle of the Somme, and on 19<sup>th</sup> July the battalion moved via Fricourt to trenches near to Matetz Wood. At 5 a.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> July, they were in the valley north of Caterpillar Wood and were heavily shelled. He was hit and killed instantly. His Commanding Officer in Gallipoli wrote:

“He was full of courage in action and, though very ill and weak, refused to go into hospital until forced to do so.”

A fellow Officer wrote of him:

“Harold was to the men and Officers what nobody else could have been. He was absolutely the heart and soul of the Mess, always cheerful. The men simply loved him. He could not do too much for his Platoon; his first thoughts were always for their happiness and

comfort. They looked on him more as a father than an Officer. He was not actually with us at the beginning of the 'Push,' but he joined us later when his course at the Army School of Instruction was finished. On the very day that he came back we were badly shelled, but he went about smiling and cheering the men, who, I honestly believe, would have done anything for him."



### **John Fortescue WORSLEY**

Elected: October 1910  
Regiment: Grenadier Guards  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Died: 27<sup>th</sup> November 1917  
Age: 28

John Worsley was educated at Winchester College and Magdalen College, Oxford. He ran for Oxford in the University Race on three occasions (1907 - second; 1908 - third; 1909 - fourth) and was captain in his final year. He was a major figure in the golden era for the Dark Blues in the run up to the war.

At Thames, he appeared often for the club in the first couple of seasons after his election, including the return match with Racing Club de France, held at Roehampton in March 1911. By the outbreak of war, he was a less regular member as he had by this point moved to Calcutta to pursue his career as a solicitor. Nevertheless, he still turned out occasionally when back in England. He also appeared for Uxbridge A.C., finishing fifth in the 1911 Southern Championships at Lingfield Park.



He returned home to join the army in July 1915 and went to France with the Third Battalion, the Grenadier Guards in November that year. His older brother, Second Lieutenant Evelyn Godfrey Worsley, joined the same battalion late in August 1916, but was killed a fortnight later, in an attack at Ginchy on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

John was killed in action at Fontaine Notre Dame, near Cambrai, on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1917. He is commemorated at the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval.



In addition to those mentioned above, it is known that two former members of the club – who had resigned their membership by the outbreak of war – also lost their lives. They are commemorated below.

### **Thomas Hope FORMBY**

Elected: 1907  
Resigned: 1913  
Regiment: Cambridgeshire Regiment  
Rank: Captain  
Died: 13<sup>th</sup> October 1916  
Age: 26

Thomas Formby was educated at Felsted School and Peterhouse, Cambridge. He won the Short Distance Challenge in January 1908. He resigned from Thames in 1913.

At the outbreak of the war, held a Commission in the Cambridgeshire Regiment and at the time of his death had served at the Western Front for 15 months. He is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial.

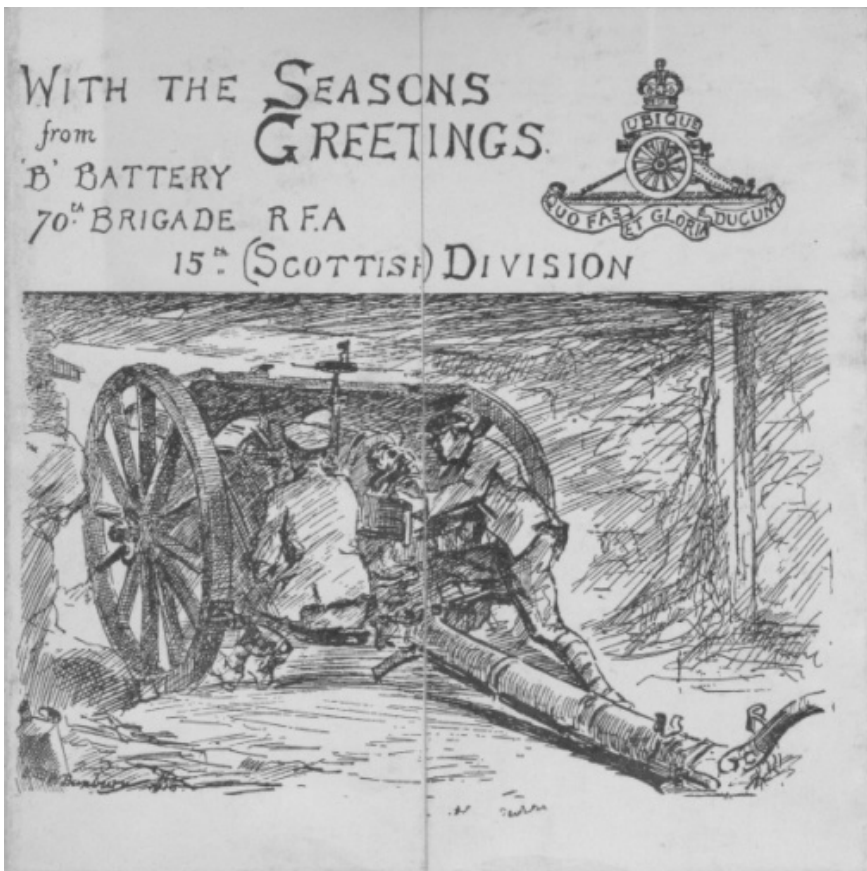


### **Hugh CLOUDESLEY**

Elected: 1906  
Regiment: The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Died: 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916

Hugh Cloudesley was elected a member in 1906 and ran regularly for the club in the years leading up to the war, including in the first match against Racing Club de France in 1910. His last appearance was at a paperchase on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1911. He resigned sometime after then, although it is not clear exactly when. In civilian life, Cloudesley was a barrister. On the outbreak of war he rejoined the Inns of Court O.T.C., which he had previously served in for four years. He went on active service in early 1915. He is buried in the Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz.





A Christmas card from the front, sent to the club by Hugh Bunbury in December 1915

## Thames Hare and Hounds.

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1, GARDEN COURT, TEMPLE, E.C.

*October, 1914.*

DEAR SIR,

In enclosing the fixture card for the first half of the season, I would point out that at the Annual General Meeting, held on October 10th, it was decided, in consequence of the large proportion of active members now serving their Country, to abandon all Inter-Club Matches, Handicap and Challenge Cup Races, and to substitute a weekly run from Headquarters, at 3 p.m., each Saturday up to Christmas. If circumstances then justify the variation of the programme by an occasional 'outlying run,' this will be arranged and duly notified.

It was also resolved to invite members of those Regiments training in and around London to take part in the Club runs, and, should the circumstances warrant it, it will no doubt be possible to arrange for runs to take place also on Wednesday, or other evenings during the week.

It is most important, for the welfare of the Club, that members who can take part in the runs should show their loyalty by attending them (preferably with visitors) as regularly as possible and I look for your kind support in this respect.

Throughout the War, while the Club is scattered, I hope to keep members in touch with each other by writing to them from time to time. Will you, therefore, kindly co-operate with me in this object as far as possible by informing me of your own movements and of any news that may be of interest to your fellow members.

Yours truly,

H. S. TINDALL,

*Hon. Sec.*

Howard Tindall instigated club circulars during his period as Honorary Secretary. This is his missive following the Annual General Meeting on 1914

## FIXTURE CARD, 1914-15.

Date.	Description of Fixture.	Time.	Starting Point.	Station.
Oct. 10	Paperchase ... ..	3-15	Headquarters	By District Railway or L. & S.W. Railway to Putney Bridge and thence by 'bus to Roehampton.
	Annual General Meeting ...	5-30	"	
" 17	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
" 24	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
" 31	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
Nov. 7	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
" 14	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
" 21	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
" 28	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
Dec. 5	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
" 12	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	
" 19	Paperchase ... ..	3-0	"	

The club's fixture card for the first half of the 1914-15 season. The impact of the war is clear

## The Casualties of the University Race

By 1914, the relationship between Thames and Oxford and Cambridge was strong. The first contact had occurred nearly 40 years before – in 1876 – when there had been attempts to stage a race between Thames and the newly-formed Oxford University Hare and Hounds. That contest never took place and it was not until 1885 that contact was finally established, this time with the Light Blues and a race was held at Cambridge on November 1885. Three years later, a fixture was established with the Dark Blues and then in 1890 the first attempts were made to move the University Race to Roehampton, the desire for a neutral course being strong at both institutions.

As history shows, that 1890 attempt turned into a fiasco and a *no race* was declared as the runners lost the trail near Raynes Park. Six years later, however, the race was back at Roehampton and this time it was for good.

Once established at Roehampton, the race entered a golden era and attracted significant coverage in the press. What had previously been a relatively irregular supply became a steady flow of university runners joining Thames. Given that this was the height of our self-imposed period of isolation from the wider athletic world, the race gave the club a profile it otherwise would not have had.

The war exacted a relatively heavy toll on the university hare and hounds, with 17 Blues (plus other club members) falling, including Felix Wedgwood – a scion of the Wedgwood pottery family – who had run in the first Roehampton race in 1896. Of the 1913 teams, three of the ten died, plus one of the reserves and one runner who was originally selected but had to withdraw through illness (David Gaussen).

Of the 17, one particularly distinguished himself, “For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leadership in the field when in command of his battery.” Eric Dougall was awarded the Victoria Cross, as detailed in the *London Gazette* of 31<sup>st</sup> May 1918:

“Captain Dougall maintained his guns in action from early morning throughout a heavy concentration of gas and high-explosive shell. Finding that he could not clear the crest owing to the withdrawal of our line, Captain Dougall ran his guns on to the top of the ridge to fire over open sights. By this time our infantry had been pressed back in line with the guns. Captain Dougall at once assumed command of the situation, rallied and organised the infantry, supplied them with Lewis guns, and armed as many gunners as he could spare with rifles. With these he formed a line in front of his battery which during this period was harassing the advancing enemy with a rapid rate of fire. Although exposed to both rifle and machine gun fire this officer fearlessly walked about as though on parade,

calmly giving orders and encouraging everybody. He inspired the infantry with his assurance that “So long as you stick to your trenches I will keep my guns here”. This line was maintained throughout the day, thereby delaying the enemy’s advance for over twelve hours. In the evening, having expended all ammunition, the battery received orders to withdraw. This was done by man-handling the guns over a distance of about 800 yards of shell-cratered country, an almost impossible feat considering the ground and the intense machine gun fire. Owing to Captain Dougall’s personality and skilful leadership throughout this trying day there is no doubt that a serious breach in our line was averted. This gallant officer was killed four days later whilst directing the fire of his battery.”

Five of the 17 were members of Thames: John Bath; Arthur Knight; Thomas Pocock; Teddy Turner; and John Worsley. The others are commemorated below.

**Philip Godfrey BARRETT**

Captain, Royal Munster Fusiliers  
Killed in action 27<sup>th</sup> August 1914  
Ran for Oxford in 1896 and 1897

**John Vivian BYRNE-JOHNSON**

Captain, Rifle Brigade  
Mentioned in Despatches  
Killed in action 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1916  
Ran for Cambridge in 1913

**Robert Shuttleworth CLARKE**

Captain, King’s Shropshire Light  
Infantry  
Killed in action 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915  
Ran for Cambridge in 1911

**Eric Stuart DOUGALL**

Captain, Royal Field Artillery  
Awarded the Victoria Cross  
Killed in action 14<sup>th</sup> April 1918  
Ran for Cambridge in 1906.

**David Newbold GAUSSEN**

Second Lieutenant, Bedfordshire  
Regiment  
Killed in action 31<sup>st</sup> July 1916  
Ran for Oxford in 1912 and originally  
selected for 1913 (withdrew through  
illness)

**William Briggs GRANDAGE**

Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Field Artillery  
Killed in action 14<sup>th</sup> May 1917  
Ran for Cambridge in 1899 and 1900

**Eric Humphrey HOPKINSON**

Lieutenant, Cambridgeshire Regiment  
Awarded Military Cross and mentioned  
in Despatches  
Killed in action 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1915  
Ran for Cambridge in 1913

**Raymond Edward KNIGHT**

Second Lieutenant, Gloucestershire  
Regiment  
Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal  
Killed in action 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1916  
Ran for Oxford in 1909



**Richard Trelawny MAY**

Captain, Royal Sussex Regiment  
Mentioned in Despatches  
Killed in action 7<sup>th</sup> July 1916  
Ran for Oxford in 1910

**Alexander James Mackintosh SHAW**

Captain, King's Own Scottish Borderers  
Killed in action 9<sup>th</sup> July 1916  
Ran for Oxford in 1897

**Anthony Reginald WELSH**

Lieutenant, Yorkshire Regiment  
Mentioned in Despatches.  
Killed in action 19<sup>th</sup> February 1916  
Ran for Cambridge from 1902 to 1905

**Arthur Felix WEDGWOOD**

Captain, North Staffordshire Regiment  
Killed in action 14<sup>th</sup> March 1917  
Ran for Cambridge in 1896

## **The Commemoration**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014, Thames will be holding a commemoration for those members of the club who lost their lives in the Great War. The club will be gathering on Putney Heath, close to our old headquarters at the King's Head and the schedule is:

- 7.15 p.m. Run from the King's Head over the old University course
- 8.30 p.m. Service of commemoration at the Roehampton war memorial
- 8.45 p.m. Meal and refreshments in the King's Head Roehampton.

The commemoration run will take place over the University Race course that was in use at the start of the Great War. Over the last 100 years, there has been significant development on some parts of it, so the route taken will follow the original course as closely as possible.

Starting outside the King's Head on Roehampton Lane, the course heads up Roehampton Lane to the Kingston Road (A3) and then through the pedestrian underpass onto Wimbledon Common. From here, a right turn is taken and Stag Lane is followed all the way to Beverley Brook. At Beverley Brook, a left turn is taken and the brook is followed until the brick bridge at the foot of Robin Hood Lane is reached. The bridge is crossed (this would have been a watersplash) and the route heads out onto the Commons Extension playing fields where a direct line is made to Colliers Wood Football Club.

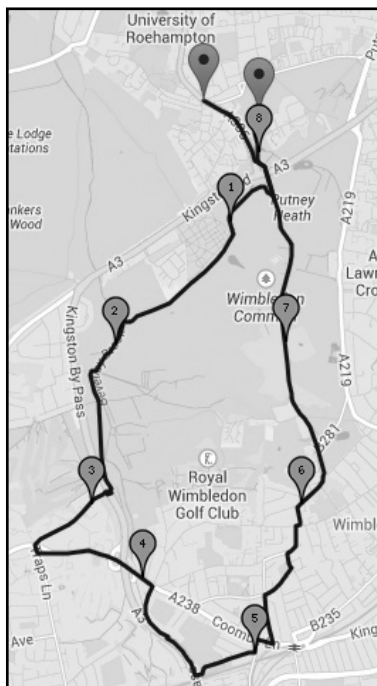
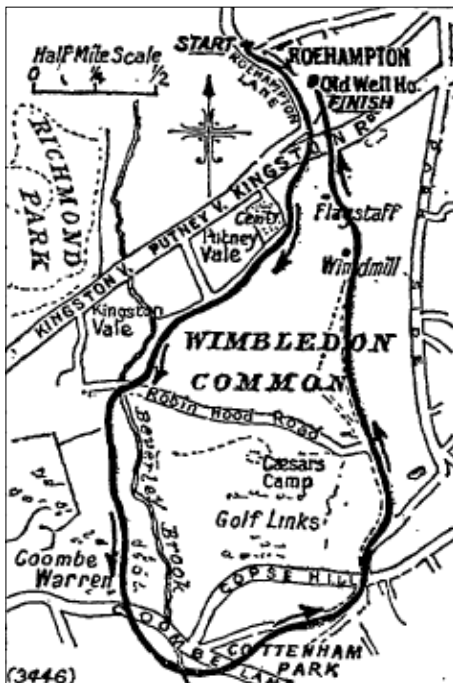
On exiting the Common at the football club, the footbridge over the A3 is used and then a short footpath through the wood is taken to reach Coombe Hill Road. The road is followed to the top of Coombe Hill. At the top, the course heads a short way down Traps Lane before taking the left and then rejoining Coombe Lane, which is then followed down and over the A3 as far as the right turn into Westcoombe Avenue. At the end of the avenue, the footpath to the A3 is taken and then the A3 is followed towards New Malden. Just before the bridge over the railway is reached, a left turn is taken down the footpath to Raynes Park Recreation Ground, which is then crossed to Taunton Avenue. At the end of Taunton Avenue, a left turn is made into West Barnes Lane.

At Coombe Lane, a right turn is taken, then left into Durham Road. This road is followed uphill to Cambridge Road, where a right turn is made and then a left into Pepys Road, which is followed until Cottenham Park Road. A right turn is made and the road is followed until the hill levels out and Christ Church is reached. Then there is a right and immediate left into Woodhayes Road.

Woodhayes Road is followed past the Crooked Billet and King's College School until the Common is reached again. From here, the route heads straight towards North View at which point the current Thames Long course is picked up and followed until the

Windmill is reached. At this point, the track from the Windmill back to the A3 pedestrian underpass is followed through to Putney Heath. From here, the path is followed to Scio Pond where it heads left and back towards the Putney Heath War Memorial where it is finished just before the memorial is reached.

The course is just over 8 miles long.



The course depicted in *The Times* in 1920 (left) and the route to be followed on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 (right)

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