

WEALDSTONE • FOOTBALL • CLUB

ROLL • OF • HONOUR

1914 • 1918

1939 • 1945



Roger Slater

**TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE REPRESENTATIVES OF
WEALDSTONE FOOTBALL CLUB
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN TWO WORLD WARS.**

1914-1918

Percival Andrews, DoB 28.04.1889 in Hendon, Middlesex.

Percy was a fine goal scorer capped in 1911 by the County and a regular



player for a number of years, initially with Wealdstone Church Athletic and subsequently with Wealdstone FC. He made his Wealdstone debut on 10th September 1910, Captained the club in its first season in senior football in 1913-14 and played his last game for the club after 97 appearances on 1st April 1914. He had scored 52 goals including four hat-tricks and once scoring four. He was also an accomplished cricketer playing for a number of local sides.

Running the family business since the age of 20, he was not called up, but he attested to the Derby Scheme (Group Scheme) in June 1915 meaning he could continue the business but would agree to a deferred call-up if required.

This eventually came in January 1917 when he joined the Royal Naval Air Service (which joined with the Royal Flying Corps to create the Royal Air Force on 1st April 1918) serving as a Mechanic 1st Class. Service Number 225242 he was wounded in October 1917 but returned to France in March 1918 but soon became ill with Bronchial Pneumonia and he died on 4th May 1918, aged 29 in 30 General Hospital, Calais, France. His grave is reference III F.2. in the Les Baraques Military Cemetery in Sangatte, France.

He was the son of Alice and William Andrews, of Grant House, Grant Rd, Wealdstone, Middx and he had had three sisters (Edith, Ellen and Eva) and a brother (Thomas).

Charles John Francis Belchambers, DoB 16.09.1882 in Hendon, Middlesex.

Charles was Goalkeeper and an Official of Wealdstone FC in 1899, the season previously incorrectly recorded as the foundation of the club. Indeed, he kept goal in what has often been referenced as 'the first match' against Northwood FC on 7th October 1899.

He played for the club over three years making his last 'known' appearance versus Brigade Institute Old Boys on 21st December 1901, though he continued as an official of the club thereafter.

Thirty-two-year-old Charles joined up at the start of The Great War, joining The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, 2nd Battalion, as Private, Service Number 207213. He died as a result of his wounds received at the Battle of Poelcapelle three years later on 11th October 1917, aged 35.

His grave is reference VI. C. 22 in the Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

He was the son of another former Wealdstone player William Thomas and his wife Elizabeth Bellchambers, of 23, Aberdeen Rd., Wealdstone, Middx and Ernest George Bellchambers who played for the club from 1902 was his younger brother.



Charles Henry Bird, DoB -.-.1894 .

Gunner Charles Bird joined the Royal Horse Artillery early in The Great



War. He had previously played only once for Wealdstone FC as a seventeen-year-old, though it is likely he was a 'Junior' at the club.

Charles, Service Number 123176 Died of wounds received on 10th December 1918, a month after the Armistice.in the Casualty Clearing Station at Namur, Belgium. It is likely that he was wounded in the final advance with his unit in Picardy, at the battle of Mons between 17th October and 11th November 1918. He is buried in the Belgrade Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 5, nearby.

His younger brother Frederick Bird of the Middlesex Regiment, 16th Battalion, the Battalion Drummer and Bugler (Private), Service Number 648 was also killed in The Great War, having died of his wounds as a seventeen-year-old on 28th January 1916. He is buried in grave reference L.20 in the Chambrin Churchyard extension.

Henry (Harry) James Bowell, DoB 10.1884 .

Henry had played in the last match of Wealdstone FC in 1905, before the



fixtures were overtaken by Wealdstone Church Athletic (who he continued to play for) and he was also in the line-up for the rejuvenated Wealdstone FC club in the 1908-09 season. He made 36 known appearances for the club, scoring 17 goals.

A Printers Warehouseman who lived in Wealdstone, he had previously served with the 7th Northants Regiment and re-joined them at the outbreak of war, enlisting in Harrow. Lance Sergeant Henry (Harry) Bowell Service Number 3/10684 was aged 38 when he was killed in action on 27th September 1915. With no known grave, he is named on Panel 91 – 93 of the Loos Memorial, Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle.

He was the son of Henry James Bowell and Hannah and husband of Ellen May Bowell. They had two children, Henry James and George Edward Bowell and prior to the war lived at 21 Grant Road, Wealdstone.

Russell William Bradberry, DoB 10.1884 .

Russell was a former Reserve player and Club Officer in the years prior to The Great War, and he was also brother of goalkeeper Thomas W Bradberry. He worked as a Stock Exchange Clerk before enlistment.

Lance Bombardier Russell William Bradberry Service Number 70878, had joined the Royal Garrison Artillery 301st Siege Battalion and died of fever in Rouen Hospital on 3rd December 1917 aged 33. Originally buried in the Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery extension, Grave Ref B. 11A (where the headstone remains) his body was repatriated and now lies in All Saints Harrow Weald Churchyard.

Russell was the eldest son of Russel and Mary Rebecca Bradberry, and he had a Brother and Sister, Thomas and Millicent also of Wealdstone. His wife Elsie Bradberry and daughter Dorothy Elsie Bradberry lived at 44 Locket Road, Wealdstone.



His brother Thomas, the Wealdstone goalkeeper served in the 10th Royal Fusiliers alongside another former Wealdstone player, Sid White. Thomas was wounded in the right arm in 1916, on the same evening that Sid was wounded in the left knee while raiding a German trench. They were hospitalized together, however both recovered, returned to the unit and survived the war.

William Henry Cozens, DoB -09.1877 in Fulham

William Cozens had been the Captain of the Wealdstone side in 1899, playing alongside his brother, both having turned the fortunes of Wealdstone Athletic in 1895. He made 68 appearances, 10 goals.

William, Service Number G/19948 joined the 9th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment in August 1914 at the start of the war at the age of 37. He was Killed in Action on 21st March 1918 aged 41 in the Battle of St Quentin at Shepherd's Copse, an early battle in the German Spring Offensive. This was part of Operation Michael, the

largest German artillery barrage of the war (3.5m shells fired along a 40-mile front). With no known grave he is named on the Poziers Memorial.

He lived with his wife Annie and daughter Florence at Moston, 2 Gordon Road, Wealdstone and he was the first Caretaker of Harrow County School (now Harrow High) as it was built and for a short period after it opened in 1911.



George Richard (Dicky) Goodege, Incorrectly recorded by the club originally as Goodage R) DoB --.1888

George Richard (known as Dick) Goodege was a former player (14 appearances, 1 goal), who was playing for local rivals, Allens Athletic at the outbreak of the war.

He enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment 9th Battalion at the outbreak of the war, and later attached to the Norfolk Regiment as a Private, Service Number TF/1651.

He left for India with his regiment in October 1914 and later volunteered for service in the



Persian Gulf, arriving in September 1915, taking part in the '300-mile march' to Baghdad where he was Killed in Action on 22nd November 1915 aged 27. He has no known grave, but is commemorated on the BASRA Memorial – Panel 30 and 64

He was unmarried and lived at 3 Florence Villas, Cecil Road, Wealdstone, working locally as a Lithographer.

Walter Langston Howman, DoB -.04.1885

Walter was a former Wealdstone and Wealdstone Church Athletic player making 81 appearances, scoring 16 goals. Known as Wally, though deaf, he was a recruit in the 24th and subsequently 16th Middlesex (Public Schools) Regiment. Though in his own words 'in a cushy job' in France, he was Killed in Action on 19th August 1916 while serving with the 1st Middlesex in the region of High Wood on The Somme. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 12D and 13B

He was the son of George and Louisa Howman and Husband of Laura Amy Howman and father to daughters Elfreda and Olive. The family lived at 6 Graham Road, Wealdstone.



Frank Tingey Martin, DoB Unknown



Frank joined the club as it reformed in 1909 and became 1st Team Vice Captain for the first Senior season, 1913/14. He made 107 appearances for the club between 1907 and 1914, scoring twice.

He joined the 7th Rifle Brigade soon after the start of the war and had risen to the rank of Corporal, Service Number B/2070. A Private Wooster wrote to his family of Frank's death "we were together in a wood just behind the trenches. This was the spot where your son was hit, and I asked him if I could do anything. He said, No, go and support the boys in the trench. I had not get ten yards more myself when I was shot through the thigh and I saw no more of him, but the

place was a death-trap for the shells fell in the woods in hundreds and it made escape impossible”

Franks was Killed in Action on 30th July 1915 in the first German Liquid Fire attacks (flamethrower) at Hooge, near Ypres, Belgium.

He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, panel 46-48 & 50.

He was born in Harrow and worked in Wealdstone.

James J Robertson, (Incorrectly recorded by the club as Robertson G).
DoB unknown

James J Robertson was a former player who made around 12 appearances, scoring twice.

Rising to the rank of Corporal, James, Service Number 58824 in the 11th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), (formerly Service Number 2209, Royal Fusiliers) died of wounds received aged 30, on 16th August 1918 at Vignacourt.

His wounds were received in the Battle of Amiens (second battle of The Somme) a few days earlier. His grave is in Vignacourt Cemetery, Somme, France and this was a Field Cemetery adopted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission after the war.

Much travelled James was born in Belfast, he enlisted London, was a resident of 1 Palmerston Villas, Palmerston Road, Wealdstone, Middlesex and his parents James and Margaret Robertson lived in Edinburgh.



Research continues into those members of Wealdstone FC that lost their lives in World War Two, but the known details to date are as follows;

1939 - 1945

Kenneth George Edwin Baldwin, DoB -.01.1920

was called up to join the 7th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment, Private Baldwin, Service Number 5956838 was Killed in Action on 28th March 1945, likely during Operation Plunder, part of a coordinated set of Rhine crossings as part of the Allied Invasion. was shot through the thigh and I saw no more of him, but the



Kenneth had been a fine goal scorer for Wealdstone (68 goals in 120 appearances) leading up to the war and was also a Chelsea Amateur and former Schoolboy International.

He was wounded on 21st November 1944 and returned to England for a short while to recuperate. During this time, he played for Wealdstone five times before his return to his Regiment!

Killed during the Allied Invasion, his grave is in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery Grave Reference 56.H.3.

His parents William and Elizabeth lived in Watford.

Robert William Bidewell DoB--.09.1919 in Watford, Herts.

Roberts was a player who had remained with the club until his call up. He scored half a dozen goals in seventeen appearances pre and during the war.



Lance Serjeant Robert William Bidewell 4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, Service Number 5950925 was Killed in Action aged 25 on 25th September 1944 in Holland, whilst serving during the Allied advance from Paris to the Rhine as the Platoon Sergeant with 2nd Platoon, A Company. In the early morning of 25th September 1944 he and others crossed the river Rhine and as they were moving through a wood, they saw two German soldiers who apparently wanted to surrender. Suddenly the Germans separated and a machine gun opened up on the Platoon. Bidewell and a Private Stevenson were killed.

Robert was the son of Harry and Eva Bidewell of Watford, and was married to J W Bidewell of Watford.

He is buried in the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery, Gelderland, Holland, Grave Ref 14.C.4.

Charles Edward Bunce, DoB ---.1913 in St Albans, Herts

Lance Corporal Charles Edward Bunce was a former Wealdstone Captain and an outstanding player who would have gone on to better things had he returned from the Far East. Leading up to the war, he scored an incredible 162 goals in 143 appearances, once scoring five and six times scoring four!



He joined the 1st Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment when called up and serving in Malaya in 1942, he was captured.

He died as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese on 25th June 1943.

His parents, William and Alice and his wife Irene May Bunce all lived in Watford. He has no known grave but is remembered on Column 57 of the Singapore Monument.

William Ainsley Burton, 48

William Ainsley Burton was a civilian killed as a result of enemy action. He was a former player with one 1st Team appearance in 1920.

He was killed on 3rd December 1940 during a German bombing raid, when a bomb fell on Queens Park Station in Kilburn.

He lived with his wife, Beatrice Annie at 32 Dukes Avenue, Wealdstone.

Commemorated in the Civilian War Dead Roll of Honour 1939 – 1945 at Westminster Abbey.

William Wilfred Parr, DoB ---.1916

William Wilfred Parr was a professional player with a long career that guested



for Wealdstone in the early wartime matches making 23 appearances and scoring fifteen goals.

He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve Service Number 1375471 and achieved the rank of Sergeant Pilot.

He was a member of 233 Squadron flying Hudson from Gibraltar, when Killed in Action on 8/03/1942 aged 26.

He is buried in the Marton (St Paul) Church Burial Ground in Blackpool, Lancashire, Plot 10 Grave 122.

Ernest William Walker, DoB ---.1920

Able Seaman Ernest William Walker Service Number P/JX321616 was initially a Reserve and then First Team goalkeeper between 1936 and 1941. He joined the Royal Navy in 1940 but remained able to play for the club until posted overseas making a total of 82 appearances.

He served on HMS Quorn, a Hunt class Destroyer until his death on 3rd August 1944 at the age of 24 when HMS Quorn was sunk by a human torpedo when part of Operation Neptune, the Naval support for the Normandy Landings (Operation Overlord) off Northern France.

Killed at sea, he is commemorated on Panel 83, Column 2 of the Portsmouth Naval memorial. He was husband of Marie Elizabeth Walker of Downham, London.



Thomas William Winterbottom , DoB ---.1924

Acting Sub Lieutenant Thomas William Winterbottom, (incorrectly recorded by the club as Winterbotham, W.) was a former Reserve player and believed to be an officer of the club.

He enlisted in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, serving under the HMS Saker banner when he was killed on 28th March 1944.



HMS Saker was formed during the expansion of the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm in World War 2, a unit formed in the United States, where they took delivery of American naval aircraft under the Lend-Lease aid programme to the British Empire. Fleet Air Arm and United States Navy aircraft flew side by side on combat missions over enemy territory and the Royal Navy and US Navy operated together in the

Coral Seas, Indian Ocean, Pacific, Mediterranean and Atlantic.

Royal Navy crews manned escort carriers built in the US and given to the UK by the American Government under Lend-Lease. The Fleet Air Arm accounting base in the USA was at Washington DC, and it was commissioned in the Royal Navy as HMS Saker on 1 October 1941, finally being paid off in 1948.

Thomas was the son of Thomas and Alice Winterbottom of Kenton, Middlesex.

PLAY THE GAME

I won't give you my name, because it's not important. I am one of thousands – and a lucky one as you are here reading my story.

There should have been millions like me, but so many were not as fortunate. They will never stand where I stand today, wearing the clothes that I wear and thinking these thoughts.

They will never stand here.

They will never return home to their lives or their wives, their families, their friends or their jobs. They are cursed to remain on foreign shores with friends they made and lost in those saddening months and years.

Some will be lucky, at least in their death. Found where they lay, but at least found. They can be cherished and remembered, their personal belongings returned and their resting place known. So many more will never be found, silent in hidden shallows and graves, others spread wide across an explosion strewn landscape, no body or soul for their families to grieve over.

These were children that will never know their enemies, their killers or the reasons why. Perhaps one day those left behind may start to understand, but I am here, now, and I do not know.

This is not about race or colour or creed. For us all on each side, this was someone else's battle, only now in memory has it become ours and I for one would close the door on the memory if I could.

But here I am.

Surrounded again by colleagues and comrades, teammates, ready to do battle as we have done many times before but now with only the weapons we were blessed with at birth – our senses, our limbs and our wits.

Around us, thousands more look on. Men just like us, some we knew and we were alongside in those dark days, some who will bear the scars for the rest of their lives, bloodied and wounded, many leaving their mark on the battlefield with skin, flesh and bone.

They, like me I'm sure will have dreamed of this day.

Cramped and wet, under fire in the trenches not even able to realise how cold it was - fearing so much a bullet or a shell, or worse still, the disabling gas and its slow painful death.

The only solace was to dream of happier times and hope for a day like this. But now that this is reality, there is still no brightness in our 'colours' and the sun may be shining, but as I look around at those thousands of faces, each seems to be etched in grey. There is no joy in their eyes and many here will shed tears, them and us alike.

The lucky ones now returned to our homes will remember our friends, the camaraderie and support and those that we have lost, but if we are to live any sort of life, we will have to forget the reasons why and much of what we have suffered. We must look forward and share the hope that we have seen the last of such destruction. Now we must focus on the job in hand, raising our spirits and working hard with our team mates to win these smaller battles to bring colour back to these dark times. At least now we know that in a matter of hours this 'battle' will be resolved and we will share a drink with our foes before parting as free men to prepare for the next.

Today, the thirtieth of August 1919, it is our turn to play the game.

**We will remember
them when the
whistle blows.**

