



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

The original version of this document was released in the Match Programme of Wealdstone FC in 2017, and it was updated for the 100th Anniversary of the end of The Great War in November 2018. Since then, research has continued – not only online and through club records that have come to light since but also prompted by a handful of family members that are descendants of those mentioned below.

In this update, released in May 2026, there have been additions in those now remembered, there have been alterations and additions to the known information of those that were victims of both wars, and there have also been new photographs and images located to add to the record, all incorporated below. Research will continue as long as further information becomes available and it is likely that in 2027 when millions of additional World War Two records will be released to the public domain a further update will be made.

We continue to remember those that fell when the whistle blows.....

Roge Slater

If you believe you are a relative of any of the players herein, or if you believe there are any omissions or errors in this document, please contact the club and let us know so that the record can be expanded or corrected.

Get in touch here: <https://www.wealdstone-fc.com/get-in-touch>

THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918

Percival Andrews

DoB 28.04.1889 Hendon, Middlesex. Died 04.05.1918, 30 General Hospital, Calais, France.



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 in a North West London League match, a 2-0 win away to Hyde & Kingsbury.

He was Club Captain in its first season in Senior football in 1913-14 playing in the first ever ties in both FA Cup and FA Amateur Cup that season.

He played his last game for the club after 97 appearances on 1st April 1914, a London League Division 1 match, suffering a 2-4 defeat at home to West London Old Boys. He had scored 59 goals including five hat-tricks and once scoring four. He was also an accomplished cricketer playing for a number of local sides.



DIED IN HOSPITAL.
LEADING MECHANIC ANDREWS.
 It is with the deepest feelings of sympathy that we record the death in France of Percy Andrews Grant House, Grant-road, Wealdstone. His death came as a shock to everyone, for he was loved by all. He took over business at the age of 20 and carried it on very successfully. He attested under the Derby Scheme, on June 16, and eventually joined the Forces in the Royal Naval Air Service, on January 24, 1917. In October, 1917, he was wounded, but recovered and returned to France once again on March 19, 1918. Unfortunately, however, sickness soon laid him low again, and on April 19 he was admitted to 30 General Hospital, Calais, suffering from bronchial pneumonia. Paraplegia followed in a very serious form and he passed away on May 4. He was as successful in the Forces as in his civilian occupation, for he soon became a 1st air mechanic, and had only passed his examination as a leading mechanic just before going into hospital. As a sportsman the district has lost one of its leading

men. A gentleman and sportsman he always proved to be, and was extremely popular with all who played with and against him. As captain he played centre-half for Wealdstone Church Old Boys' Club. He was induced to play for Wealdstone at inside left, and in that position he represented Middlesex Juniors in 1910-11, and would have played again the following season, but for an injury to his knee. He ably assisted Wealdstone in the matches connected with the Willesden and District League (Premier Division); F.A. Cup, and F.A. Amateur Cup, and captained Wealdstone in the first year of senior football. As a cricketer he was equally successful and figured in the Harrow Weald, Wealdstone Wednesday, and also in the late Lieut. Aubrey Blackwell's eleven. His death removes from our presence a most popular sportsman, who will be greatly missed by all his playing colleagues and by all who knew him on and off the field. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widowed mother, sisters and brother who are left to mourn the loss of a brave and very loving son.

Harrow Observer 24.05.1918

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 Bellchambers

DoB 16.09.1882 Hendon, Middlesex. Died 11.10. 1917, Pas de Calais, France

Charles was a member of the family that were well represented at Wealdstone through the formative years, both as players and Officials of the club. He was a Goalkeeper and an Official of Wealdstone FC in 1899, the season previously incorrectly recorded as the foundation of the club. Indeed, he kept goal 'on debut' in what has often been referred to as 'the first match', a friendly against Northwood FC on 7th October 1899 which Wealdstone won 6-1.

He played for Wealdstone over three seasons making his last 'known' appearance in a Willesden & District League Division 1 fixture, a 1-4 defeat at home 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 Bellchambers and his wife Elizabeth of 23, Aberdeen Rd., Wealdstone, Middx. His older brother William and younger brother, Ernest George Bellchambers also played for the club as did his uncle, Henry. Henry and William also served on the Club Committee.

Charles Henry Bird

DoB 18.05.1893, Harrow Middlesex. Killed in Action 31.08.1918, near Peronne, France



Charles made a single first team appearance for Wealdstone FC v Hendon Town in a North West London League Division 1 match, drawing 1-1 away. He was 17 years old at the time though he had also represented the club and other local sides as a Junior. He was also included in the 1912-13 Team Photo however he appeared for Harrow Weald during that season, prior to emigrating to Australia where his fiancée Elsie had intended to join him once settled.



On the outbreak of the Great War, Private Charles Bird S/No 703 joined the 18th Battalion, Royal Australian Infantry, part of the 5th Brigade, based in Liverpool, New South Wales. Following two months training in Egypt his Brigade was sent to fight in the Gallipoli campaign, following this they were sent onto the Western Front at the battle of Hooge.

Shortly after this Bird was awarded leave and he returned to Harrow to marry his fiancé before returning to France and The Somme, fighting initially in the Battle of Poziers not knowing if he would ever see his wife in England or his family in Australia again. Their son Ashley Charles Bird was born on 28th June 1917.

He was killed in action on 31st August 1918 having never seen his son and he is buried in the Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Grave ref IV.B.10. He had an older brother Sidney and a younger brother Frederick (Middlesex Regiment, 16th Battalion, Battalion Drummer and Bugler (Private), Service Number 648) who died of his wounds as a seventeen-year-old on 28th January 1916 and is buried in grave reference L.20 in the Chambrin Churchyard extension. The brothers were three of nine children in the family.

Henry (Harry) James Bowell

DoB --.04.1878. Died of Wounds 27.09.1915 near Loos, France.



Henry (known as Harry) made his debut as a half back on 8th October 1904, a home friendly against Alexandra Park who ran out 5-3 winners. He also 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.



His last match was on 19th December 1908, a Middlesex Junior Cup tie away to Breakspear United. Wealdstone were leading 4-3 when the match was abandoned. In total he made 39 known appearances for the club, scoring 19 goals. He later played for Allens Athletic, another Wealdstone side who became HMSO.

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 Cemetary, 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 Died 03.12.1917, Rouen Hospital, France.



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 and worked as a Stock Exchange Clerk before enlistment.

It is likely that he made only one first team appearance as a sixteen year old on 16th March 1901, appearing as a half back in the Willesden and District League Division 1 match away to Harrow Weald, Wealdstone losing 1-2.

Lance Bombardier Russell William Bradberry Service Number 70878, joined the Royal Garrison Artillery 301st Siege Battalion serving in the UK and in France. He died of fever in Rouen Hospital on 03.12.1917. Age 33, he was originally buried in the Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery extension, Grave Ref B. 11A (where the Commonwealth War Graves headstone remains), however 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. 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, returning to Wealdstone FC.

William Henry Cozens

DoB -09.1877 in Fulham, London, Killed in Action 21.03.1918, St Quentin, France

William Cozens had been the Captain of the Wealdstone side in 1899, playing alongside his brother Herbert, both having turned the fortunes of Wealdstone Athletic in 1895. Having previously played for Wealdstone Athletic prior to their demise, he made his debut for Wealdstone Rovers on 5th September 1896 in a friendly v South Hackney Clarence at home in a 5-0 victory.

Having remained with the club through various transitions to Wealdstone Albion and then Wealdstone FC (he captained both sides) until their decline in 1905 following the winning of the club's first League Championship. He later returned to





the reformed club in the 1909-10 season having also appeared for Victoria Halls and Harrow Athletic. He made a total of 63 appearances initially as a forward and later as a defender scoring 13 goals and his final appearances was on 30th October 1909, a Willesden and District Premier Division match at home, a 6-0 win against MHC United in which he scored his last goal for the club.

William, Service Number G/19948 joined the Royal Fusiliers in August 1916 later becoming part of 9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment billeted in Brighton and on the South Downs. The battalion later became part of the 73rd Brigade, 24th Division relocating to Shoreham before embarking for Boulogne-sur-Mer. William saw service at the Battle of Loos,

Hooge Crater, Ypres and defended a German gas attack at Wulveringham in Belgium before returning to The Somme and later the Battle of Pickem Ridge. His service continued on the Western Front through Delville Wood and onto Langemark where severe flooding hampered the movement and manoeuvrability of both armies.

We know that he returned home to Harrow on leave at the beginning of 1918, returning to his wife Annie who he had married in 1898 and daughter Florence (b1898) at Moston, 2 Gordon Road, Wealdstone, before returning to France where 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 (3.5 million shells fired along a 40-mile front) and 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. 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.

Frederick Farmborough

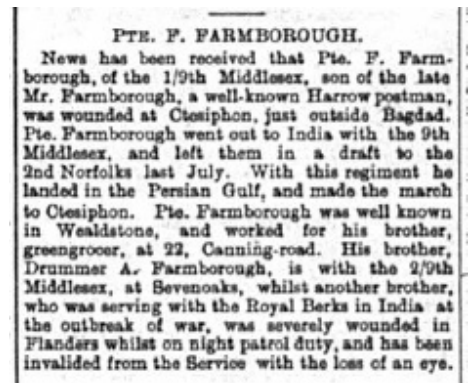
DoB --.1881 Killed in Action 12.10.1916 Kut, Basra Region, Persian Gulf



A former Wealdstone FC goalkeeper Fred Farmborough made 9 appearances for Wealdstone Wanderers in 1897-98 prior to their incorporation in the Wealdstone Albion club and he also made a single appearance for the Wealdstone FC first team in a Friendly match at home to West Hampstead Reserves (lost 0-2) on 22nd September 1900. (He also played for the club Reserve team in 1899-1900, playing in the first recorded match of the Wealdstone FC Reserves on 7th October 1899, a 0-12 reverse away to Queens Park Olympic).

Fred Farmborough, Service Number TF/265283, became one of the last of the 'first thousand men' that formed the 1st/9th Middlesex Regiment signing up in Harrow in early September 1914. At the end

of October, prepared for immediate mobilization, Fred Farmborough was alongside another former Wealdstone player, George Goodege (below) as they embarked onto transport ships at Southampton for a 35-day journey to India, travelling via Malta and the Red Sea. Early in December the troopships arrived in Bombay after their journey and both Farmborough and Goodege were assigned to the Presidency Brigade based in Calcutta



Harrow Observer 5th November 1915

On 4th August 1915, one year into the war, Fred Farmborough and George Goodege transferred out of the 1st/9th Middlesex Regiment in India and became part of the first draft to the 2nd Norfolk Regiment, then serving in Mesopotamia. The transfer was immediate and once again they embarked on a transport ship for the journey arriving in the Persian Gulf on the 9th September. They were immediately involved in the 300-mile march to Baghdad and into battle. By early Winter both had been engaged in a number of actions in the Persian Gulf and in early

November, Fred Farmborough had been wounded in the Battle of Ctesiphon. (A few days later on the 22nd November, George 'Dicky' Goodege was Killed in Action just outside Baghdad).



At the end of the month Fred Farmborough, sufficiently recovered from his wounds, returned to action in the Siege of Kut which was to last into the New Year. Cut off, the British attacked and tried to relieve the siege throughout the early part of 1916. Fred was recorded both as Killed in Action and Died of Dysentery, the later seeming most likely as he was wounded (again) and taken prisoner at Kut. His death was not confirmed until August 1918 and he is commemorated on Panel 30 and panel 64 of the Basra Memorial, separated from George Richard Goodege by one name.

brother, Harold, who served with the Royal Berkshire Regiment survived the war though he was wounded losing an eye in Flanders, which eventually resulted in his medical discharge.

Fred's brother Albert Farmborough served with the 2/9th Middlesex (later East Surrey) Regiment as a Drummer. He was killed in 1918 and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial while another

George Richard (Dicky) Goodege

DoB --.1888 Killed in Action 22.11.1915 Baghdad, Persian Gulf
(Incorrectly recorded by the club originally as Goodage R)

George Richard (known as Dick) Goodege was a former half back that made 14 appearances for Wealdstone FC, scoring 1 goal.

He made his debut on 10th January 1914 in a Middlesex and District League match away to East Ham United winning 1-0. His last match was on 1st May 1914, another league match, this time against Liberty

at home, and he scored his only goal for the club in the 8-0 win. (He also played for Allens Athletic in April and May 1914).



PTE. R. GOODEGE.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Private Dick Goodege, who was killed in action, on November 22, a few miles from Bagdad.

At the outbreak of War he enlisted in the 9th Middlesex, and left for India in October, 1914. He afterwards volunteered for service in the Persian Gulf, and was attached to the 2nd Norfolks. He arrived there in September, 1915, and did his 'bit' in the 300 mile march to Bagdad. He was a prominent member of Allen's Athletic Club. A keen footballer and cricketer, his ability was well known to all local sports. He had also played football for Wealdstone and Sunnyside, (Berkhamstead). The popular "Dick," as he was commonly called, will be greatly missed by all sportsmen. He was game to the last, dying manfully for his King and country. He was 27 years of age and unmarried.



In common with many of his teammates from both clubs, he enlisted in early September 1914 and he too joined the Middlesex Regiment 9th Battalion, later attached to the Norfolk Regiment as a Private, Service Number TF/1651.

Alongside Fred Farmborough (above), he left for India with his regiment in October following the same path through India and onto the Persian Gulf 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 separated from Fred Farmborough by one name. Although his name was George, he was known at the club as Dicky, short for his middle name of Richard and he is also commemorated on the Wealdstone Town Clock Memorial where he is also recorded as R Goodage as he was on the original Wealdstone FC Memorial.

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

Harrow Observer 7th January 1916

Walter Langston Howman

DoB -.04.1885, Killed in Action on 19th August 1916



Walter Langston Howman was profoundly deaf yet played for Wealdstone Church Athletic and the reformed Wealdstone FC from 1906-1914. He made 83 appearances, scoring 15 goals and played as a half back and a forward though he also made a handful of appearances as a goalkeeper.

He made his debut on 15th September 1906, playing for Wealdstone Church Athletic who at the time were fulfilling Wealdstone FC fixtures, in a Willesden & District League Division 1 fixture at home to Ridge Athletic, a 2-2 draw. His last match was in a home friendly for Wealdstone FC against BTH Works, an 8-0 victory, on 13th December 1913. In 1913-14, his last season with the club, he also played alongside his younger brother. Howard the Reserve Team Captain. Howard also served during the Great War and returned to Wealdstone FC in 1919-20.

Walter Howman (known as Wally), Service Number PS/2879, though deaf was recruited into the 24th and subsequently 16th Middlesex (Public Schools) Regiment and spent the early part of the war based around the UK. With losses mounting on the Western Front much of Kitchener's New Army of volunteers was embarked for France including Walter Howman, who crossed the channel and landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer on 17th November 1915.

He wrote home that he initially was in *'in a cushy job'* in France serving in kitchen behind the lines, however, with losses mounting, his regiment were called forward to Longeau, from where they joined the ongoing Battle of Albert on 10th July 1916. By the 20th July, his Regiment took part in an attack on the Switch Line near High Wood where they suffered 321 casualties, almost a third of their complement. 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.

E.R.	HORNICK M.	D. C. M.	ME
	HORTON A.	KREFT G. A.	ME
	HORTON H.	LAKER W.	ME
	HORWOOD E.	LAMB T. H.	ME
H.	HOUSE W. S.	LAMBERT A. G.	ME
	HOWARD B.	LAMBERT C. W.	MI
	HOWARTH J.	LAMMAS E.	MI
	HOWELL F. J.	LANDER W. G.	MI
	HOWGATE G. J.	LANE G. J.	MI
	HOWMAN W. L.	LANGLEY E. S.	MI
	HOYLE H.	LANGSTONE A.	MI
	HUDSON S. W.	LAPSLEY J.	MI
	HUGHES C.	LARGE J.	MI
B.	HUGHES F. J.	LAYER H. J.	MI
F.	HUGHES V. C.	LAWRENCE H.	MI
G.	HUGO F. E.	LAWSON J. W.	MI
V.F.	HULBERT W. G.	LEACH G.	S
F.	HULSE J. J.	LEACH J. W.	M
	HUMPHREY C. H.	LEADBEATER I.	MI

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 Tingay Martin

DoB --.12.1888 in Hendon. Killed in Action 30.07.1915, Hooge, near Ypres, Belgium.



Frank initially joined Wealdstone Church Athletic as a half back for the 1906-07 season, during the period where they were fulfilling Wealdstone FC fixtures. He had his debut in a Middlesex Junior Cup tie at home versus Old Lyonians, a match that finished in a 2-2 draw.

He was a member of the reformed Wealdstone FC side for the 1908-09 season, by then playing more as a full back and he became Vice Captain of the side for the 1913-14 season. He made his final appearance on 25th April 1914 in a London League Division 1 match away to Charlton Athletic Reserves, 0-1 defeat. In total he had made 125 appearances for the club, scoring 2 goals.



On the 13th September 1914, Frank enlisted as a Private Service number B/2070 in the 7th Rifle Brigade at Winchester, immediately moving to Aldershot as part of the 41st Brigade of the 14th Division of the army. He was promoted to Acting Corporal in the October, attaining the full rank at the end of the year and he embarked for France in the following May (1915) arriving at Boulogne-sur-Mer before moving into the front line in Belgium.

At the end of July, two months after landing in France, Frank Martin was to become a casualty of the war, as he was Killed in Action on 30th July 1915 in the first German Liquid Fire attacks (flamethrower) at Hooze Crater, near Ypres, Belgium.

MISSING.
CORP. F. T. MARTIN.

Corpl. F. T. Martin, son of Mr. T. Martin, of 3, Red Lion-cottages, Harrow Weald, 7th Battalion Rifle Brigade, has been missing since July 30. News has been received of him this week in a letter from a comrade, Rifleman H. Wooster. In a letter to Mr. Martin he says "Your son, and myself were together in a wood just behind a trench. The place I must not say, but this was the place where your son was hit, and I asked him if I could do anything for him, but he said "No, go and support the boys in the trench," and I had not got ten yards 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. As you have not heard of him I would, I regret to say, give up all hopes. I hope you will accept my deepest sympathy in the loss of your son, and the boys of his section send their sympathy also, as he was a good leader of his men and was liked very much by them all, and he was also a great loss to them."

Originally reported missing at the end of July, it was not until 17th December that further news was received in a letter from a comrade, Rifleman H Wooster. It stated; *"Frank and I were in a trench behind Hooze Wood when he (Corporal Martin) was hit and wounded. I asked if there was anything I could do for him, but he said no and told me to go and support the boys in the trench. Moving on no more than ten yards, I too was shot - through the thigh - and I saw no more of Martin"*. He added *"the place was a death trap. If you have heard no more, you should assume the worst as the shells fell in the woods in their hundreds, making any escape impossible"*.

03	KIRWAN E.	CHAPMAN E.	PH
502	McALISTER H. P.	CHATTEN C. H.	POD
	SALTER J. D. C. M.	CLARKE C. F.	PRE
		COARE R. A.	RAB
		COPPINS A.	RAY
		DAVENPORT W. Y.	REY
	SERJEANT		
	ANDREWS A. A.	DICKSON G. F.	ROB
	BANNELL C. A.	DIGGINS J.	ROB
	BAYNES P. H.	FLETCHER J.	ROS
	BRIGGS E. B. S.	FULLER F. G.	SEA
	BRINDLEY C.	GARDNER W.	SIL
	BYERLEY L.	GEORGE E.	SIL
	CHINCHEN W.	GLOVER G. F.	SMI
	COOK A. W.	GOODMAN W. H. M. M.	SNE
	CRISFORD G.	GRAVENEY A. H.	STO
	CROSS A. J. D. C. M.	HAINES G.	STR
	DALE E.	HEYS H.	STU
	DAVIES J.	HICKS W. E.	SWA
	DAWSON R. D.	HILL W. R.	TAL
	DEMPSTER R. J.	HOWARTH A.	TOM
	DENT G.	HUTCHINSON A. J.	TUR
	DUNTHORNE J.	LOWE A. N.	WAL
	DYER E. W.	LUCKETT L. P.	WAR
	EDWARDS M. S.	LUNNEY J.	WAT
	ELLIOTT I.	LUNT E.	WEA
	FALL W. G.	McDONALD D. F.	WHI
	FORD W. H.	MARTIN C.	WHI
	FORDHAM G.	MARTIN F. T.	WHI
	GARNER S. R.	MITCHELL T. C.	WHI
	GOODWIN T. A.	MULLINS T.	WHI
	HARRIS G. S.	NASH W. G.	WIS
	HARRISON J.	NICE F. W.	
	HARVEY N. V.		

He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, panel 46-48 & 50. He was born in Harrow, lived at 12 Alexander Terrace, Headstone Drive and worked in Wealdstone.

James J Robertson

DoB --/--/1888, Died of Wounds 16.08.1918, Vignacourt, France

(Incorrectly recorded by the club originally as Robertson G)

James J Robertson was a former player who made 10 appearances, scoring 3 goals. He joined Wealdstone late in his career at the start of the 1912-13 season and played 9 times as a full back, scoring 3 goals before leaving to join Allens Athletic, though he did return to play one more match in 1913-14. His first appearance was in a Middlesex Junior Cup tie at home to Harrow St Mary's on 5th October 1912, Wealdstone winning 7-1 and his final appearance was in a London Junior Cup tie at home to Harrow Weald on 22nd November 1913, the visitors winning 1-0.

At the outbreak of war James Robertson enlisted as Private, Service Number 58824, in the newly formed 11th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) at Hounslow, becoming part of 54th Brigade of the 18th Division in early September. Having served throughout The Great War on the Western Front, James was killed early in the "100 day offensive" that was to lead to the end of the war. He was wounded at Vignacourt in August 1918 and sadly died of his wounds.

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.



THE SECOND WORLD WAR, 1939-1945

Kenneth George Edwin Baldwin

DoB --.01.1920, Killed in Action 28.03.1945, Reichenwald Forest, Germany



Kenneth Baldwin was a fine goal scorer for Wealdstone scoring 68 goals in 120 appearances across the forward line for the club and he was also a Chelsea Amateur and former Schoolboy International. In the 1939-40 season with League football suspended, Wealdstone arranged a strong list of friendlies and Baldwin featured in 41 of these, scoring 40 goals!

His debut for the club was in an Athenian League match at home to Golders Green on 25th December 1937. Wealdstone won 4-1 and Baldwin had scored two of the goals.



Kenneth Baldwin (left) and brother Russell

He was called up to join the 7th Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment. As Private, Service number 5956838, he was based on the South Coast for much of the war allowing him to continue his Wealdstone career until he went overseas. His last appearance was during 'recuperative leave' after being wounded on 3rd February 1945, a Herts and Middlesex League match at home to Grays Athletic, which the visitors won 4-3. As 1944 commenced, his unit had been designated as a Reserve Unit for the invasion of France planned for D Day, 6th June and they eventually embarked for Le Hamel following the initial phase of the attack four days later on 10th June.

Shortly after arrival in France, the unit was called into action, as part of Operation Jupiter, an offensive by VIII Corps of the Second Army during the Battle of Normandy. The objective was to capture the villages of Baron-sur-Odon, Fontaine-Étoupefour, Chateau de Fontaine and to recapture Hill 112. As the battles progressed, Baldwin and the 7th Battalion mopped up and concentrated near Mauny prior to capturing St Denis de Mere after a bombardment by nine artillery regiments. The Battalion took 74 prisoners and then prepared for "the breakout". They then moved 50 miles north-east to Conches, crossing the Seine and taking part in Operation Market Garden, through Eindhoven to Grave, tasked with defending the southern end of the two large bridges over the Waal.

After a short period out of the line, Baldwin and his Battalion were soon sent back in, fighting west of Arnhem on the bridges in the Valburg-Elst area, and then moving to the "Island" where they remained until 4th October. Baldwin remained part of the continued advance through Holland, from Groesbeek-Mook area on the Dutch-German border to Maastricht, where on 21st November, he was wounded. He returned to England where he was hospitalized. Once released from hospital he returned to play 5 further times for Wealdstone. Following the fifth match in early February, Baldwin returned to the front line. By the 14th of the month, he was taking part in Operation Veritable. In March, they took part in Operation Plunder in assault craft, consolidating on the far bank prior to crossing the IJssel Canal to Milligen, captured on 26th March as German resistance collapsed.

On 28th March Baldwin was killed during an attempted crossing of the Rhine. The news filtered back to the club and on 14th April the Wealdstone players marked his death in a Red Cross Cup match versus Edgware Town, all wearing black armbands and they observed a one-minute silence in respect of his passing. 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 25.09.1919 Watford, Herts. Killed in Action 25th September 1944 near Arnhem

Robert was a right wing or inside forward player who made his Wealdstone debut on 27th December 1937 in an Athenian League match away to Golders Green, a 2-2 draw. (His was a familiar name as his older brother Sidney had played for the club through 1936 and early 1937, whilst associated as an amateur with Chelsea FC). Robert's career was extremely disrupted by his war service, as he played his last match for the club in a Herts and Middlesex League Cup Semi Final on 22nd April 1944. The match saw a home defeat by 3-5 to visitors, Clapton, but it was only Robert's 37th appearance for the club, in which he had scored 2 goals. Both he and his brother also played for St Albans City.

He does also feature in one further 'interesting anecdote' as at the start of the 1939-40 season, Wealdstone faced the Athenian League XI, selected from the other clubs in the league in a match at Lower Mead. With the score 2 – 2 at half time, the visitors started the second period brighter and pressured the 'Stones' defence during which time S Friday received a bad cut above his eye and had to leave the field. This being a friendly match a substitute was allowed, this was only the second known occurrence (the first v Ipswich Town in 1926) in any Wealdstone match other than a public trial, as Bidewell joined the fray. The league team eventually ran out winners 4-3.

In December of 1939, Robert Bidewell left his Territorial Unit to join the 4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment (part of the 43rd Wessex Division). He had become a fairly regular player in the Wealdstone side during the previous year and retained his place in the side for another month until joining up, retaining his rank as a Lance Sergeant. He was destined to remain in the UK for almost five years serving as part of the coastal defence force, protecting the south coast against invasion and he continued to play sporadically for Wealdstone when home on leave.

On June 23rd 1944, Robert Bidewell and his unit, previously put 'On Reserve' for the Invasion were embarked for a sea crossing to Normandy as part of the second wave of the D Day invasion, to secure and hold land and support the ongoing offensive.

In early July, similar to Ken Baldwin above, Robert Bidewell saw his first action in a major battle near Maltot, where they attacked the German positions on and around Hill 112. In a fierce and costly battle, the Germans defended their positions resolutely, exacting a high price. At some cost the 5th Dorsets captured Eterville while continuing to attack Maltot. In the confusion of battle the Brigade Commander thought Maltot had been captured and ordered the 4th Battalion to join the battle. As they closed on the village a hurricane of machine gun and anti-tank gun fire burst upon them, costing the 4th Dorsets 348 casualties.

Following the initial attacks both moved on as part of the Battalion attacking the village of Cahagnes and Jurques on their way to Ondefontaine towards 'Point 132' near Mont Pincon and that battle won, by mid-September Bidewell's 43rd Wessex Division was moved forwards to support the Guards Armoured Division in its battles beyond the Waal at Nijmegen in the drive up to relieve the Airborne forces at Arnhem.

Lance Serjeant Robert William Bidewell 4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, Service Number 5950925 was Killed in Action aged 25 on 25th September 1944 near Arnhem, Holland, whilst serving during the Allied advance from Paris to the Rhine.

He was 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, on his 25th birthday and Private Reginald Stevenson of Muswell Hill, London, 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 St Albans, Herts. died as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese, Camp Malai 3, 25th June 1943



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.

He made his Wealdstone debut in an Athenian League match on 28th August 1936 at home to Uxbridge. He announced his arrival with five goals in an 8-0 win. He scored an incredible 174 goals in 143 appearances for the club, scoring five on debut as above and on six occasions he scored four goals in a match. His final Wealdstone appearance was in a friendly match v Wycombe Wanderers away on 20th November 1940 which Wealdstone won 4-0 with Bunce scoring twice.

On the 1st November 1939 Charlie Bunce was mobilised from his Territorial Battalion and joined the 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment, stationed at Melton Constable in North Norfolk. He was fortunate that, being based there, he was able to remain part of the Wealdstone side for the rest of the season, by travelling down on Saturdays to play. Within a matter of weeks Bunce was part of the 18th Infantry Division on Airfield and Coastal Defence duties based at Stiffkey, North Norfolk. (It's also recorded that he played for a Norwich City team while based in Norfolk, though records of their reserve team fixtures at this time are unavailable).

He also served in Dunfries in Scotland and then Crewe Hall in Cheshire, then in October 1941 Charlie Bunce and his battalion sailed from Gourock on a Polish Free State Vessel, the MV Sobieski to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Ten days after arrival, they transferred to the USS Mount Vernon on route to Cape Town, the circuitous route designed to avoid enemy U-Boats. Progress was slow, the ship docking in Mombassa, Kenya on Christmas Day on route to their eventual destination of Singapore. Seventy-five days later, on the 13th of January they arrived in the middle of an air raid during which the battalion sustained its first casualties as the result of an attack on the ship by dive-bombers.

Charlie immediately saw action as his unit was dispatched to join forces with the 15th Indian Brigade, attacking Batu Pahat in North Johore, though a flanking attack by the Japanese Army cut off the town that the Battalion held. By January 23rd orders were received to withdraw from Batu Pahat to a position a mile down the road, where it was intended that the garrison should halt and fight a delaying action to cover the establishment of a further defence line through Benut. No sooner had the move commenced than a further signal was received cancelling the withdrawal order and ordering the force to reoccupy the town. They were instructed to hold it for a further 48 hours to enable other British units on the east coast to be extricated first.

Finally released in early February, the Battalion immediately engaged in the Battle of Singapore. However, the final battle was a decisive Japanese victory, resulting in the capture of Singapore and the largest British surrender in history. About 80,000 British, Indian and Australian troops in Singapore became prisoners of war, joining 50,000 taken by the Japanese in the earlier Malayan Campaign. The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, called it the "*worst disaster*" in British military history.

Charlie Bunce was initially reported missing and then reported as a Prisoner of War. 16 months after he had been captured defending Sime Road Camp in Singapore (the battalion defended the camp for two days before being ordered to surrender) Charlie Bunce died of Cholera 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

DoB 17.10.1892 Hendon, Killed as a result of Enemy Action 03.12.1940 Queens Park, Willesden, London



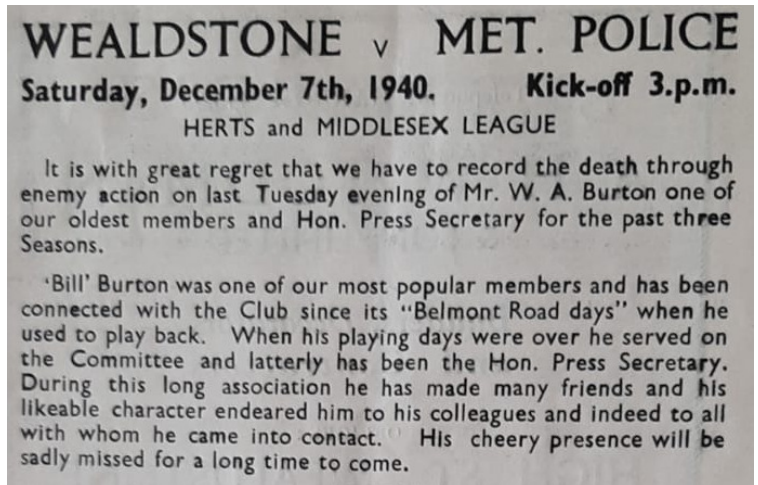
Former player William Burton had played for Wealdstone FC either side of World War 1 and had also been a committee member in the years leading up to the Second World War (pictured in the 1921-22 Championship winning team).

A reserve team player initially, he had made his first team debut for the club on 5th February 1910 in a friendly away to Deerfield Athletic which Wealdstone won 5-2 with Burton scoring one goal. Though we have not been able to locate a service record for Burton during The Great War, he did return to the club after the armistice and he made his last appearance as a player on 22nd April

1922 in a London League Division 1 match away to Summerstown Reserves, which recorded a 0-8 defeat. In total he made 65 appearances scoring 2 goals.

Unusually, William Ainsley Burton is named on the Club War Memorial as the first member and former player of Wealdstone FC killed during World War 2, not however 'in service' but as a civilian. He was recorded as 'A civilian killed by enemy action' on 3rd December 1940 during a German bombing raid when he was travelling on the London Underground. He was killed by a bomb that fell adjacent to Queens Park Railway Station.

An Electrical Engineer, he lived with his wife, Beatrice Annie and son Norman at 32 Dukes Avenue, Wealdstone. He is remembered on the Civilian War Dead Roll of Honour 1939 – 1945 at Westminster Abbey.



William Wilfred Parr

DoB 23.04.1915, Blackpool, Lancs, Killed in Action 08.03.1942 Lower Treburrick Farm, St Ervan, Cornwall



William (Bill) Parr was a professional player with a long career that guested for Wealdstone in the early wartime matches making 24 appearances and scoring fifteen goals. He had played for Blackpool and Arsenal. Remaining an amateur, he had also played for Dulwich Hamlet and had represented England in nine Amateur Internationals.

He made his Wealdstone debut in a friendly at Chesham on 14th October 1939, scoring three goals in an 8-1 win. His final game for the club was on 1st June 1940 in another friendly, this time at home to Tooting & Mitcham United. The game resulted in a 6-6 draw, however goalscorers are unknown.

He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve Service Number 1375471 at the outbreak of war but was able to continue playing for the club whilst with his Training Unit, but in January 1940 he was preparing to join 233 Squadron in Scotland. He had been promoted by then to the rank of Sergeant Pilot.

233 Squadron were flying Hudsons on sea defence and anti-shipping costal control as far apart as Scotland, Gibraltar and Cornwall and Bill Parr was originally flying sweeps off the coast of Norway before relocating to St Erval in Cornwall, flying patrols over the Bay of Biscay.



A wartime photo of a Lockheed Hudson landing at St Erval, the home base of RNAS St Merryn

On the 8th March 1942 it was reported that Parr was killed in action. He had been the pilot of the Lockheed Hudson V serial number AM535 of No. 233 Squadron RAF based at RAF St Eval, that had overshot the runway when attempting to land at RNAS St Merryn.

It had crashed in a field at Lower Treburrick Farm, St Ervan, and caught killing Parr, his Observer Sgt Sydney Benson (Royal Australian Air Force) and the Wireless Operator / Gunner Sgt Stanley Hyman (Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve).

He is buried in the Marton (St Paul) Church Burial Ground in Blackpool, Lancashire, Plot 10 Grave 122. His parents, John Wilfred and Clara Ann lived in Blackpool.



Arthur Ernest Walker

DoB 10.06.1917, Wrexham, N Wales, Killed in Action 26.01.1944 near Anzio (at Sea)



Alfred Ernest Walker (known as Ernie) was initially a Reserve and then First Team goalkeeper for Wealdstone FC between 1936 and 1941. He joined the Royal Navy in November 1940 but remained able to play for the club until posted (overseas) in January 1941.

He made a total of 83 appearances in all first team competitions for the club making his debut on 5th December 1936 in an Athenian League match away to Leyton which Wealdstone won 3-2, and his final appearance was on 4th January 1941 in a Herts & Middlesex (Wartime) League match away to Finchley, which Wealdstone lost 2-1.

Though mainly a Reserve Team player, Ernie did appear in the FA Cup and the FA Amateur Cup for Wealdstone FC and was also goalkeeper in the team that won the Middlesex Senior Cup in 1938 (his best season with the club), beating Tufnell Park 3-1 in the final. He also played cricket for Wealdstone FC in 1937-38. The photograph is from a team photograph of the Wealdstone first team v Sutton United (won 2-0) on 1st May 1937.

Once 'called up' Ernie served as Steward Arthur Ernest Walker Service Number P/LX26394 on Her Majesty's Landing Ship, Tank (HMLST) 422, a landing craft that was built in the USA as United States Navy LST-1. It was transferred to the Royal Navy shortly after launch in December 1942. On 26th January 1944 HMLST-422 was carrying the C and D Companies and the Headquarters of the US Army's 83rd Chemical Battalion (Motorized) and also members of the 68th Coast Guard Artillery Battalion when it struck a mine off Anzio, Italy. Among many of the crew, Ernie is commemorated on Panel 87, Column 2 of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.



Ernie had married Margaret Walklate in December 1940 in St Albans, Herts. In 1943 while on Active Service Ernie wrote to Wealdstone FC telling of his wartime experiences. The following appeared in the Wealdstone FC Match Programme v Tufnell Park on 18th September 1943:

Wealdstone v Tufnell Park 18/09/1943

Ernie Walker our former goalkeeper writes;

I am unable to tell you where I am but the climate is very hot. The life is very boring sometimes but we do have a little excitement when we come across a Jerry.

While I was at Scotland I played for the Fleet and we had some very good games, but now while I am at sea I miss my football very much.

I quite realise how much I enjoyed playing for Wealdstone in the past and I hope that when this war is over I will be able to come back and render the club many years more service. I don't know how the club fared last season, but I hope you have a successful season this year and that it may also bring peace. Give my regards to the Committee and players and the Trainers.

Robert Wilson

DoB --.01.1919, Harrow, Middlesex, Died 9th January 1943 Edgware, Middlesex

Robert Wilson joined Wealdstone FC during the 1937-38 season as a nineteen-year-old playing mainly in the Reserves, initially with occasional call-ups to the First Team. He made his first team debut in an Athenian League match at home to Leyton on 26th March 1938, a 2-0 victory in which he played on the right wing. His last appearance was on 26th December 1942, a Herts & Middlesex League match away v Golders Green which Wealdstone lost 2-9, though Wilson did score one of the goals. It was his 21st appearance for the club and his fourth and final goal.

He was called up in 1941 and as Private Robert Wilson S/No S/98369 he served with the Royal Army Service Corps, though when stationed locally, he was still able to turn out for the club. Whilst serving with the RASC, he contracted pneumonia after an operation and he died on 9th January 1943 in Red Hill Hospital, Edgware.

The highlight of his career was as the star player in Wealdstone FC's first visit to Wembley Stadium, when they beat a strong RAF Uxbridge side, full of professional players, on June 3rd 1942 in the Middlesex Red Cross Cup Final.

He was not originally included on the club's War Memorial, most likely as his death was recorded of illness in a local hospital. Subsequent research has found that he has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone, therefore as a serving soldier at the time of his death. he is added to the memorial for the future.

The son of Joseph and Annie Wilson of Wealdstone, he is buried in Wealdstone Cemetery, Section C Grave 2236

Thomas Walter Winterbottom

DoB --.--.1924, Kenton, Middlesex, Killed in Action 28.03.1944

(incorrectly recorded originally by the club as Winterbotham, W.)

In the early stages of the 1941-42 season Thomas Winterbottom, a reserve team player, had been called up to play in the first team on the wing only for his 'Stones career to be very short lived as he had enlisted in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve.

He made his Wealdstone debut as a 17 year-old on 27th September 1941 in a Herts and Middlesex League match away to Tufnell Park, a 5-2 win. He made the last of his three appearances on 18th October 1941 in a 0-6 reverse in the Herst & Middlesex League away to Enfield.



Acting Sub Lieutenant Thomas William Winterbottom, Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve, was posted to serve under the HMS Saker banner, a unit formed during the expansion of the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm in World War 2. It was formed in the United States, where they took delivery of American naval aircraft under the Lend-Lease aid program 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 also 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.

It was recorded in 1941 as a Royal Naval Air Station in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and by 1944 when Winterbottom was killed it was concurrently recorded at Naval Auxiliary Air Facility in Lewiston, Maine, Naval Air Station Squantum in Massachusetts and Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine. From each base, it is likely that the Naval airmen flew Grumman Tarpon (TBF-1 Avenger) torpedo bombers in anti-submarine missions, as shown in the image above flying over HMS Indomitable, though no record or further details have been located.

Details of the circumstances of his death on 28th March 1944 also remain classified, though he was listed as 'Missing, Presumed Killed' following an aircraft accident. Thomas is remembered on Bay 5 Panel 7 of the Royal Naval Memorial, Lee-on-Solent.

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

