

BLETSOE WAR MEMORIAL

World War 1 & 2 - Roll of Honour with detailed information

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additional information Edward Bean - Churchwarden,
Bletsoe



There is a war memorial in the centre of the village.
The memorial is a Celtic Cross in grey granite unveiled 13th June 1920.



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The picture below is of the original unveiling on
13th June 1920.
and was taken from "Bedfordshire At War" by
Nigel Lutt
available for purchase from the Bedford Record
Office.

**TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY
OF
THE MEN OF BLETSOE
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914-1919**

CAMPION

**Walter
Ernest**

Major, East Yorkshire Regiment. Plaque in the church reads: In Loving Memory of MAJOR WALTER E CAMPION, East Yorkshire Regiment. Killed in action near Lille Wednesday October 28th 1914. Aged 43 years. Son of the late Mr. H. Campion. Educated Bedford Modern School (1882-89). Commemorated in RATION FARM MILITARY CEMETERY, LA CHAPELLE-D'ARMENTIERES, Nord, France. Special Memorial VI. M. A commemorative plaque is to be found inside on the wall of St Mary's Church. A wooden battlefield grave marker bearing Walter Campion's name is now in Bletsoe Church. See also [Bedford Modern School](#)



From Andy Pay's research into the Marquis de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour the following:

Volume 1, Part 2, Page 57. CAMPION, Walter Ernest. Major, 1st Battalion (15th Foot), The East Yorkshire Regiment. Son of Henry Campion of Bletsoe castle near Bedford. Born Dean, co. Beds 9-8-1871, educated Bedford Modern School, gazetted 2nd Lieut East Yorkshire Regiment, from the Militia 12-12-1894, promoted Lieutenant 2-4-1897, Captain 10-5-1900, and Major 16-4-1913. Served in the South Africa War 1900-1902, being employed with the Mounted Infantry (slightly wounded), took part in the operations in the Transvaal in May and June 1900, including actions near Johannesburg, Pretoria and Diamond Hill (11th & 12th June), operations in the Orange River Colony July to 29th Nov 1900, including actions at Wittebergen (1st to 29th July), Bothaville and Caledon River (27th to 29th Nov), operations in Transvaal, west of Pretoria, including action at Frederickstad. Was in command of the 5th Mounted Infantry from Feb to Mar 1902, took

part in the operations in Orange River Colony and Cape Colony 30th Nov 1900 to March 1901, operations in the Orange River Colony Mar to Sep 1901 and Oct 1901 and April to 31st May 1902 (mentioned in despatches, London Gazette 10-9-1901 and 29-7-1902, brevet of major, Queens medal with 4 clasps and Kings medal with 2 clasps), subsequently served in Burma, India and with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, was wounded 20-9-1914, but returned to the front, and was killed in action near Lille 28th Oct following.

BARKER	Harry	Sergeant, TT/03385, Royal Army Veterinary Corps attached 20th Brigade H.Q., Royal Horse Artillery. Died Monday 14th October 1918 in Egypt. Aged 35. Son of John Barker, of Radwell, Beds.; husband of R. A. Barker, of 6, Bletsoe, Bedford. Commemorated on ALEXANDRIA (HADRA) WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY, Egypt. Panel F. 228.
SURRIDGE	Walter Frederick	Sergeant, 20059, 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action Monday 4th September 1916 in France & Flanders. Aged 28. Born Bletsoe, enlisted Ampthill, resident Bedford. Son of John Surridge, of Chettles Close, Sharnbrook, Beds; husband of Caroline Surridge, of Church Farm, Church Rd., Sutton, Surrey. Commemorated on THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 2 C.
HOLMES	Cecil Richard	[Lance Corporal on memorial] Private, 18042, 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action Thursday 20th September 1917 in France & Flanders. Aged 24. Born and resident Bletsoe, enlisted Bedford. Son of David and Clara Holmes, of Whitwick Green, Bletsoe, Beds. Commemorated on TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 48 to 50 and 162A.
PETTIT	Leonard Edwin	Lance Corporal, 18030, 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Died Tuesday 28th December 1915 in France & Flanders. Aged 25. Born and resident Bletsoe, enlisted Bedford. Son of James and Elizabeth Pettit. of Bletsoe. Buried in ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Grave VI. B. 25A.
ARMSTRONG	Thomas G	Private 162295, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Killed in action Saturday 12th October 1918 in France & Flanders. Age 26. Born Bletsoe, enlisted Bedford. Formerly 3/7503, Bedfordshire Regiment. Buried in NEUVILLY COMMUNAL CEMETERY AND EXTENSION Nord, France. Grave A. 33.
BROWN	Arthur George	Private, 22895, 8th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action Friday 15th September 1916 in France & Flanders. Age 17. Born and resident Bletsoe, enlisted Bedford. Buried in GUILLEMONT ROAD CEMETERY, GUILLEMONT Somme, France Grave X. A. 2.

COLEMAN	Albert Ernest	Private, 18025, 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action Friday 30th August 1918 in France & Flanders. Age 20. Born and resident Bletsoe, enlisted Bedford. Formerly 202176, Royal Scots. Buried in COMBLES COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Somme, France. Grave II. F. 15.
PARKER	Artimas William	Private, 3/7562, 8th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action Thursday 15th June 1916 in France & Flanders. Age 18. Born and resident Bletsoe, enlisted Bedford. Buried in ESSEX FARM CEMETERY Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave II. R. 18.
WILDMAN	Charles	Private, 200477, 4th Battalion, Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment). Died Tuesday 25th June 1918 in France & Flanders. Age 25. Born Bedford, enlisted Stokesley, resident Bletsoe. Buried in HAUTMONT COMMUNAL CEMETERY Nord, France. Grave V. A. 10.
CRANE	Ernest H	Petty Officer Boy, TR/9/48630, 53rd Training Reserve Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Died Saturday 2nd November 1918. Aged 18. Adopted son of William Crane; son of Amy Newton. Buried in Bengoe (Holy Trinity) Churchyard, Hertfordshire.

In the churchyard but not on the memorial - 1939-1945

PILFORD **Ernest Alfred**



Sergeant (Pilot) 115343, 245 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Died Wednesday 30th April 1941. Aged 28. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph John Pilford; husband of Ailsa Dean Pilford, of St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Buried in BLET SOE (ST.MARY) CHURCHYARD, S.E. corner of churchyard.

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

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 War Memorials Trust	Main page  Commonwealth War Graves Commission
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