

Armed Forces Day, 1 July 2018.



Every year on Remembrance Sunday Pat Perry had a life time's wish to see her Uncle's name added to the War Memorial at the Cross. Her father had told her about his elder brother, **Private Albert James Enoch Parsons**, drowning in the river at the "the Witheys" at the Mythe Tewkesbury on the 13th August 1919. He had been home on leave with his wife and young daughter when he went for a swim with some loyal lads. After a while he was seen to be in difficulties and sank. His pals tried to help but without avail.

His family always believed his breathing was impaired by his being gassed during the war. Now Pat's wish has come true: Albert's name was added along with others at a **Re-Dedication of the War Memorial and service of Thanksgiving for Armed Forces Day**. A lovely service conducted by the Tewkesbury Mayor and prayers from the Tewkesbury Sea Cadets Air Cadets and Boys Brigade. It is a day that all who attended will remember.



Armed Forces Day 2018 was more special that most since it was the culmination of a 4 year project to review the names on our War Memorial to ensure there were no omissions. The working party, headed by the Mayor and using research by

Tewkesbury Historical Society, resolved to ensure that all who enlisted in the Armed Forces and lost their lives, by whatever means, would be commemorated. One problem to resolve was that those who lived in the new suburb of Newtown, which is now within Tewkesbury Parish, were omitted from both Memorials.

Therefore, the name of Pte. A. J. E. Parsons joined 9 others from WWI and 4 more from WWII.¹



In 1914 recruits marched off to war, cheered by a huge crowd at the railway station (now behind Morrisons). Parade Organiser Rod Gurney is to be congratulated in welcoming home the soldiers in 2018 with a parade from there to the War Memorial.

¹ The names on the new plaques, and the reasons for inclusion, can be consulted on www.ths.freeuk.com and at the Town Hall.

Armed Forces Day, 2018
Addition of omitted Names to new Plaques on the War Memorial

This was a project to Commemorate World War I, between 2014-2018, which started with the need to repair the Memorial in 2013.

The Town Council accepted the setting up of a *War Memorial Working Party* to advise the council and to seek its permission.

The Group also organised events in different years to raise money for its own Accounts and funds, raised in this way, have paid for the production of the two plaques.

At all stages the permission of the relevant Council committees was obtained as was the advice of the Borough Conservation Officer.²



The Working Party; the Mayor as Secretary and Cllr. Cromwell, Chair
 Historical advisor, **John Dixon**, President of THS & Col. Bennet, deputy Lord Lt. & RBL reps not pictured



² The Plaques are designed to be weathered to match the originals.

Tewkesbury War Memorial Working Party
Armed Forces Day 1 July 2018
Names to be Added to the War Memorial

Guiding Principle		agreed on 25-4-2017 that the Criteria be extended to all those who died in service between the due dates applied after both wars ³	
Recommendation	War	Name	Comment
<p style="text-align: center;">All Tewkesbury born or migrants</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All within deadlines</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All Serving Personnel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Not commemorated elsewhere on parish memorials</p> <p style="text-align: center;">#in Ashchurch Parish until 1932</p>	WWI	Pte. Frederick Green	Killed in Action 22 March 1918; missed deadline because his body was not identified until 1925
		Worker Kathleen Sollis	Died in influenza pandemic while a military nursing worker at Tredington Isolation Hospital.
		Pte. F. W. Taylor	Died in influenza pandemic whilst serving in UK; but lived in Newtown, then Ashchurch. Commemorated on neither Memorial#
		Pte. A. E. Fletcher	Discovered by Cheltenham Historian; disappeared in battle
		Pte. F.G. Green	Discovered by Cheltenham Historian; enlisted London; family breakup and thought wrongly to be from Winchombe; commemorated on neither Memorial
		Pte. A. J. E. Parsons	Gassed in war but died accidentally in 1919
		Pte. L. Rossell	Killed in Action 3 July 1916 during the Battles of the Somme but lived in Newtown, then Ashchurch. Commemorated on neither Memorial#
		Cpl. V. W. Marment	Killed in Action on 3 May 1917 during the Battle of Arras. Tewkesbury resident in 1911 but emigrated to Canada. Father donated present YMCA building.
		Pte. P. L. Marment	Died in the flu pandemic at Le Havre on 31 October 1918. Tewkesbury resident in 1911 but moved to London. Father donated present YMCA building.
	Gunner Henry Knight	Died in service	
	WWII	Pte. John C. Cash	Guard at POW camp, who died in road accident in service.
		Sgt. Arthur Hanlon	Migrant to Tewkesbury; killed on duty in Home Guard Accident in Tewkesbury.
		Pte. R. E. Collet	Conscripted but fatal accident in High Street, presumably off-duty
Sapper W. E. Portlock		Conscripted but “ <i>came home on leave and was taken seriously ill</i> ”	

Every year on Remembrance Sunday, **Mrs. Pat Perry** had a life time’s wish to see her Uncle’s name added to the War Memorial at the Cross.

He was **Pte. Parsons** who died in a drowning accident in 1919. It is believed his lungs had been damaged by being gassed in the war.



John Dixon, THS.

³ Details of discussions and decisions have been posted on www.ths.freeuk.com/- right hand column **WWI**.