

Researching the content of this book

Research for this book began in 2013 with the centenary of the outbreak of World War One in prospect. The initial source of information for those from Overton who died in World War One was the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard with the rank, initial and surname of each serviceman.



Similar information is available on a wooden board in Overton Memorial Institute



Investigation of the Hants and Berks Gazette archive (on microfilm at the Discovery Centre in Basingstoke) showed those who were serving by September 1914 in which regiment or ship in most cases.

ROLL OF HONOUR Hants & Berks Gazette, Aug/Sept 1914 combined

Men who have joined the Forces in the Basingstoke district:

OVERTON

BEFORE. - Royal Navy. - F. Ansell, R.M.; Alfred Benham, H.M.S. Birmingham; Alan Dale, H.M.S. Cochrane; William Dale, H.M.S. Invincible; Walter Glasspool, H.M.S. Venerable; Edwin Heighes, R.M.S. Britannia; Victor Powell, H.M.S. Impregnable; Albert Rye, H.M.S. Grafton; Ernest Selwood, H.M.S. Black Prince; George Smith, H.M.S. Vernon; Henry A. Stevens, H.M.S. St Vincent; H.A.F. Stickland, H.M.S. Colossus; William G. Wake, H.M.S. Audacious; George Wiltshire, H.M.S. Southampton; Frank Winterbourne, R.M.; Ernest Alfred Harris, Royal Navy Depot, Williamstown, Australia.

BEFORE. – Army. - W. Benham, 2nd Hants Regt.; Percy H. Crosswell, R.H.A.; Harold John Crosswell, 16th Lancers; Arthur Harris, Duke of Connaught's Light Infantry; Cecil M. James, R.A.; Herbert J. Marks, 1st Hants Regt.; Edward Phillimore, 1st Hants Regt.; Charles Roberts, R. Veterinary Corps; Leonard Roberts, R.G.A.; Gilbert E. Smith, 1st Hants Regt.; Henry T. Smith, 4th Rifle Brigade; R.F.W. Stickland, 1st Leicestershire Regt.; John Watts, 1st Hants Regt.; Frederick Charles Harris, 2nd Hants Regt.

SINCE. – Reservists. – J.T. Barrett, 14th Hussars; George Glasspool, R.G.A.; Thomas E. James, R.A.; William Matthews, 1st Hants; A.S. Norman () ; Enos Oram, R.A.M.C.; John Osmond, R.F.A.; William Phillimore, 2nd Hants; Samuel Reed, 1st Dorsets; W.R. Roberts, R.F.A.; Arthur E. Tite, Army Ordnance; Reginald Wake, R.G.A.; Albert Watts, 1st Dorsets; Cecil Winterbourne, R.F.A.

SINCE. – Territorials. – A. Burgess, G. Cousins, H. Garrett, Ernest Lambden, Frank Prince, Percy Smith, Herbert Roberts.

Further information was gathered on regiment or ship from a Roll of Honour of men from Overton serving in September 1916. This records men discharged, prisoners of war and those killed.

List of Overton Men Serving in H.M. Army & Navy.

Allom, A.	11th Hussars	Parichild, W.	17th Lancers	Oram, J.	Wills Regiment	Wale, R.	R. G. A.
Allom, R.	R. F. A.	Forder, E.	6th Mants.	Oram, F.	10th Mants.	Wale, A.	Canadians
Allom, A.	R. G. A.			Oram, E.	9th Mants.	Wale, A.	10th Gloucesters
Allom, R.	11th Hussars			Oram, J.	4th Mants.	Walls, A.	9th Mants.
Andrews, S.	9th Mants.	Goodall, A. E.	Wills Regt	Osmond J.	R. F. A.	Watts, A.	1st Dorsets
Ansell, L.	11th Berks.	Garrett, B.	R. A. M. C.			Watts, E.	4th Mants.
Ansell, H.	6th Mants.	Giles, Sergt	Wills Regt			Watts, J.	1st Mants.
Anguier, C.	Canadians	Glasspool, A.	A. S. C.	Phillimore, W. G.	R. F. A.	Watts, P.	A. S. C.
Ansell, A. A.	R.	Glasspool, F.	Devons.	Phillimore, E.	A. S. C.	Watts, R.	M. T. A. S. C.
Asquith, R.		Greenleaf, J.	10th Mants.	Phillimore, E.	1st Mants.	Weaver, S.	Bucks & Oxen Regt.
Banning, F.	R. Engineers	Gifford, G.	R. G. A.	Porter, Col. B. B. S.	2nd Mants.	Winterbourne, C.	R. F. A.
Barrell, J.	14th Hussars		R. M. A. S.		Commanding Cavalry Corps	Winterbourne, E.	R. Marines
Benham, A.	Mants Regt.	Jobs, G.	A. O. C.	Powell, G.	R. Fusiliers	Winterbourne, C.	A. O. C.
Benett, F.	A. S. C.	Jenkins, D.	R. F. A.	Pye, F.	A. S. C.	Wiltshire, A.	4th Mants.
Benham, E.	Wills Regt.	Jenkins, D.	Gloucester Regt.	Payne, E.		Widham, J.	R. B.
Benham, H.	9th Mants.	Jenkins, F.	Wills Regt.	Purdy, W.	1st Mants.	Wills, V.	Gloucesters
Benham, W.	2nd Mants.	Jenkins, G.	Gloucester Regt.			Wright, R.	4th Mants.
Berry, R.	R. W. Mants	Mill, R.	Devons	Ralph, W.	4th Mants.		
Bettbridge, F. W.	A. S. C.	Mill, A.	4th Mants.	Reunis, B.	R. G. A.		N. A. U. V.
Bone, W.	A. S. C.	Morris, A.	Corwall Infantry	Redstaff, A. Sergt.	A. S. C.	Ansell, F.	R. M. H. M. S. St Vincent
Bone, E.	A. S. C.	Morris, F.	2nd Mants.	Roberts, C.	A. V. C.		
Bone, J.	A. S. C.	Harvey, N.	R. M. A.	Roberts, H.	9th Mants.	Benham, A.	H. M. S. Birmingham
Blake, C.	R. A. M. C.	Harvey, N.	Goldstream Gds.	Roberts, L.	R. G. A.		
Blake, H.	Sussex Regt.	Havens, E. Sergt.	R. F. C.	Roberts, W.	R. F. A.		
Blake, P.	4th Mants.	Hunt, V. Corp.	Suffolks.	Roberts, P.	R. B.		
Blake, W.	R. W. Mants			Reid, S.	1st Dorsets	Cousins, T.	Royal Naval Reserve
Brown, W.	4th Mants.	Kersley, A.	R. A. M. C.	Smith, B.	4th Mants.	Dale, A.	Submarine
Brown, G.	9th Mants.	Kersley, E.	R. Engineers	Smith, J. C.	Warwicks	Dale, W.	H. M. S. "Invisible"
Brown, L.	10th Hussars			Smith, A.	4th Mants		
Brown, R.	A. S. C.	Lambden, C.	R. A. M. C.	Smith, G.	1st Mants		
Brown, W.	9th Mants.	Lambden, E.	R. A. M. C.	Smith, A.	R. F. C.		
Burgess, A.	9th Mants.	Lambden, R.	R. G. A.	Smith, W.	Wireless Operator - R. M. S. Transport	Glasspool, W.	H. M. S. "Venerable"
Burgess, A.	A. V. C.	Lancaster, F.	Devons	Smith, W.	K. R. S. Transport	Harris, E.	H. M. S. "Psyche"
Butcher, E.	Wills Regt.	Larkham, G. Sergt.	A. S. C.	Saunders, C.	M. T. A. S. C.	Heighes, E.	H. M. S. "Berham"
Butcher, F.	4th Mants.	Lock, A.	R. G. A.	Stickleland, J. W. Sergt.	1st Leicesters		
Butcher, H.	Wills Regt.	Lock, G.	A. S. C.	Stubbins, H.	R. B.		
Butcher, G.	4th Mants.	Lock, E.	5th Mants.	Summers, J.	A. S. C.	Powell, V.	H. M. S. "Defence"
Burgess, T.	9th Mants.	Lock, S.	A. S. C.	Snowell, G.	3rd Mants.		
		Lock, W.	4th Mants.	Switzer, A.	A. S. C.		
Caswell, P.	R. F. A.	Lock, F.	Mants Yeomanry	Shadwell, A.	Royal Marines	Rye, A.	H. M. S. "Draught"
Carter, A.	R. B.	Lock, W.	4th Mants.			Roberts, J.	H. M. S. "Rastbury"
Chaplin, A.	R. F. A.	Lovridge, E.	M. T.				
Chaplin, J.	4th Mants.	Lovridge, W. T.	Middlesex				
Cooper, W. Major	R. F. A.	Lovell, J.	4th Gloucesters				
Cooper, Sir Edward	E. Nat. Guard	Marks, H. Sergt.	1st Mants.	Tapscott, C.	4th Mants.	Selwood, E.	H. M. S. "Vernon"
Cooper, J.	R. H. A.	Matthews, C.	R. F. A.	Tanner, C.	4th Mants.	Smith, G.	H. M. S. "Necla"
Cosier, C.	4th Gloucesters	Matthews, W.	Mants Regt.	Tilbury, L. G.	R. B.	Smith, W.	H. M. S. "Levinthorpe"
Collis, P.	A. S. C.	Marshall, W.	R. H. A.	Tilbury, D.	1st Mants.	Sprent, A. T.	H. M. S.
Cooper, C.	A. S. C.	Mc Cann, J.	8th City of London	Tilbury, H.	5th Devons	Stephens, H.	H. M. S. "St Vincent"
Cole, P.	4th Mants.	Mc Cann, W. H.	10th Mants.	Tilbury, G.	R. B.	Stickland, H. A. F.	H. M. S. "P. 17"
Cousins, D.	4th Mants.	Mitchell, R.	10th Mants.	Tilbury, A.	A. S. C.		
Covington, W.	R. A. M. C.	Mulford, R.	1st Life Guards	Tilbury, J.	R. F. A.		
Crosswell, H.	16th Lancers	Moore, J.	R. G. A.	Tilbury, C.	Mants Regt.	Taylor, M.	H. M. S. "Aincourt"
Crosswell, P.	R. H. A.			Tilbury, S.	16th Mants.		
		Nash, D.	R. V. C.	Tite, H.	4th Mants.		
Dimer, E.	10th Mants.	Nash, W.	R. H. A.	Thurting, J. F. (W. O.)	A. V. C.	Wake, W.	H. M. S

D - Discharged P - Prisoner of War * - Killed

This List is made up to Sept 1921

Postcards of the Overton War Shrine unveiled in May 1917 to honour all who were serving revealed more names of those in the armed forces at that time.



A search of the Hants and Berks Gazette from 1914 to 1923 revealed numerous reports of military service, visits home, injury and death that help tell the stories of the men from Overton who died, and how they would be remembered, including on the memorial in St Mary's Churchyard and through the building of the Overton Memorial Institute.

Further sources of information have been used to identify service men, and to find out more about where they served and their lives before the War. Additional materials have become available on-line since research for this book began in 2013 and this will probably continue. This book can therefore never be considered complete. To date, on-line sources include census records, the Commonwealth War Grave Commission website with its Cemetery and Memorial Records and Headstone Inscriptions Medal Cards, records of Soldiers' Effects and who they were to be sent to, Regimental War Diaries and accounts of losses of Naval vessels. Information has been collated in this book for each WW1 serviceman with a known connection to Overton, beginning with his Commonwealth War Graves Commission Certificate.

Memorials in Overton

As soon as the war was over, a committee was formed in Overton with two purposes. The first was to erect a fitting memorial to the fallen which generated 'a sharp difference of opinion' between those who wanted a stone cross and those who wanted a lych gate. In the end Col. Bertram Portal, chairman of the fund-raising committee, put the matter to a referendum of parishioners and the result was conclusively in favour of a cross. It was dedicated on November 2nd 1919.



This shows the memorial after it was cleaned in 2014 for the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of War.

The second object was to rebuild the Reading Room, otherwise known as Overton Working Men's Club, which had been established in 1871 on the west side of Winchester Street where the Red Fort restaurant stands now. However, the war memorial had cost £258 leaving only £300 available for the new rooms which was wholly inadequate. Two years went by with little progress until William Portal, Bertram's nephew, took the initiative. He offered the site at the bottom of Overton Hill at a nominal rent, organised more fundraising events and underwrote the shortfall with family donations. He also added a large hall to the original plans. The total cost was £2,000. Although described as having 'no pretensions to architectural beauty' it was fitted with electric light.

On 22nd December 1923 the Overton Memorial Institute was finally opened at a gala event. William Portal dedicated the hall to his old friend and agent, Mr G.L. Bush, who had recently died. George Bush had also been chairman of the Parish Council and an active supporter of the Reading Room and many village clubs. Amongst the speakers was the Rector, the Revd. Carpenter Turner, who lost a son in the war. He proposed that 'a tablet with the names of Overton men who had made the great sacrifice should be placed in one of the rooms.' The 'tablet' took the form of the wooden board on display at the 'Stute, to which the names of those who died in WW2 were added later.



Overton Memorial Institute photographed on V.E. Day 2005

There are also three headstones in St Mary's Churchyard and a plaque in St Mary's Church. These are illustrated in the sections of this book for each of the individual service men.