

Arnold Percival LEMMON

Born	May 1898
Killed in Action or Died	29th September 1918, age 20
Buried	Grave I. C. 12. , Unicorn Cemetery, Vend'Huile, Aisne, France
Unit	6 th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment
Rank	Private, Service Number 40362
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

Arnold Percival Lemmon (1898, Ely) was the second of the four children of Herbert Edward Lemmon (1870 Ely) and his wife Rhoda Eliza Clarke (1871 Ely). He had an older brother, Hubert Wesley (1895 Ely), and three younger sisters called Grace Annie (1899 Ely), Doris Rhoda (1902 Ely) and Edith Louisa (1903 Ely). The family were Methodists and worshipped at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Ely, where Arnold was baptised on 19th June 1898.

In 1901 the family lived in Broad Street and Herbert was a fruit and poultry dealer. The 1911 Census shows that Arnold's cousin Ada Clarke (1908 Ely) was also living with the family. Arnold's older brother Hubert was also in work, as a signal box lad for Great Eastern Railways. The family later moved to 24 Newnham Street.

Arnold was living in Newmarket at the time he enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment. He fought first with the 2nd Battalion and later the 6th Battalion. In December 1917 he landed up in hospital with a poisoned foot. He wrote home that his battalion "had a rough time of it with German high explosive shells...it is very different here in hospital to being up to one's waist in mud..."

In 1918 the 6th Battalion fought in the Battle of St Quentin, the Battle of the Avre, the actions of Villers-Brettoneux, the Battle of Amiens, the Battle of Albert, the Second Battle of Bapaume, the Battle of Epehy. In these engagements Arnold was wounded twice. He was killed in the Battle of the St Quentin Canal which was a pivotal battle of the War—for the first time the German Hindenberg Line was full breached and the tide of the War began to turn. However for Arnold the conflict was over; he was killed near Ronssoy on the Basse Boulogne-Epehy road and buried near where he fell. It was just over a month before Arnold's parents were informed of his death.

Arnold's body and those of 109 others were later moved to Unicorn Cemetery. Here his parents asked for his headstone to carry the message "Forever with the Lord".

Arnold's effects were sent to his mother Rhoda—these consisted of £1 16s 5d in May of 1919 and £7 10s at the end of the year.

Arnold is remembered on the Ely Market Place Memorial and the Memorial Plaque in Ely Methodist Church.



Reuben Jonathan James LEM(M)ON

Born	4th March 1897
Killed in Action or Died	19th July 1917, age 20
Buried	Grave A. 6., Rookery British Cemetery, Heninel, Pas de Calais, France
Unit	1 st /4 th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own)
Rank	Private, Service Number 7630
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

Reuben Lemon (1871 Ely) and his wife Albina aka Hanilee Thompson (1872 Little Downham) lived throughout their married life in Cambridge Road, Ely. **Reuben Jonathan Lemmon** (1897) was their oldest son, but they also had other children: Mary (1892); Violet (1895); Henry aka Harry (1899); Florence (1906); Rose (1909); Jonathan (1914). Reuben senior was a bricklayer's labourer. The family used two different spellings of their surname but Reuben is "Lemmon" on the Ely Memorial.

On 16th April 1901 Reuben was admitted to Ely's Market Street Infants School. The 1911 Census shows that Reuben junior started working as an errand boy while he was still at school.

In May 1913 the Lemmon family appeared briefly in the local newspaper when either Reuben or his younger brother Harry was trapped between two cars during the torchlight procession for the return of Mr Denison-Pender as the local Member of Parliament. Fortunately the accident resulted in bad lacerations, but no broken bones.



Reuben enlisted in the Yorkshire Hussars at Cambridge, serving first with the 5th Battalion (Service Number 5206) before being transferred to the 4th Battalion. He served first as a bomber, then as a sniper and was a member of the Scouts' Section.. He fought in various battles of the Arras Offensive and was hospitalised twice, each time with illness, before he was killed in action a few miles south east of Arras itself near the road to Cambrai. His Battalion was then in the trenches south of Cherisy. Reuben was killed instantly when a shell broke directly on the observation post where he was positioned with an adjutant and a corporal. His officer wrote: *"He was a good little chap, and we all miss him very much.....he was quite a character in our scouts section and kept all the others lively by his fun and cheeriness. He was a good observer and was diligent and trustworthy and always very willing. A few nights before his death he and I were out alone together on a little job, and I was much impressed by his coolness and levelheadedness."*

A month after Reuben's death his nine year old sister Rose died, and a new sister, Emma, was born who would never know her oldest brother.

After his death, Reuben's mother was sent his effects of £3 6s 6d and a further £7 in 1919.

Reuben is commemorated on both the St Mary's Memorial and the Ely Market Place Memorial.

Thomas Francis LEM(M)ON

Born	1895
Killed in Action or Died	9th February 1915 age 19
Buried	Grave F1188, Ely Cemetery
Unit	1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment
Rank	Private, Service Number 2651
Awards	<i>Did not serve abroad</i>



Thomas Francis Lemmon is one of the few soldiers remembered on the Ely Market Place Memorials who did not go to War.

Thomas was born in Stuntney in 1895 and was the son of Harry Lemon (1865 Waterside, Ely) and Bertha Day (1870 Queen Adelaide). His father Harry was a farm worker. In the 1901 Census the family was living on Stuntney Causeway and also in the household was Thomas' younger sister Violet (1899 Stuntney) and his grandmother Elizabeth Lemmon (1821 Ely).

In the 1911 Census the family were still at Stuntney, and Thomas had two more younger siblings called Lily (1902 Stuntney) and Harry (1908 Stuntney). By this time Thomas had left school and was working on a farm, probably for Mr Cole Ambrose of Stuntney who was his employer at the time he enlisted in 1914.

Like many of the young farm workers in the area, nineteen year old Thomas was keen to join the local regiment at the outbreak of the War, and enlisted in the Cambridgeshire Regiment on 9th September 1914; the local newspaper of 18th September includes his name in their roll of honour of those who signed up across Cambridgeshire.

Thomas' service record states that he was 5 feet 10 3/4 inches tall and of good physical development, and that he was passed fit for service. (On his army papers

Thomas' surname is spelt as "Lemon" and this is how he signed his name, although the family normally used "Lemmon".) Thomas served just 82 days in the territorial force and was then discharged as medically unfit on 27th November 1914 at Cambridge. During this period Thomas was only on Home Service.

Thomas died at home in Stuntney in early February 1915 of pneumonia with enteric fever (typhoid). He was buried in Ely cemetery on 13th February 1915. As he had been discharged from the Army before reaching minimum days of service, he does not have a CWGC gravestone.

Thomas was commemorated after the War on the Ely Market Place Memorial, the Holy Trinity Memorial and the Stuntney War Memorial. His photograph was placed in the book "Stuntney Heroes" which was kept in Holy Cross Church, Stuntney after the War (now in the Cambridgeshire Archives). Thomas had not had the chance to fight, but he had wanted to be a hero.

David Edward LOWE

Born	22nd May 1883
Killed in Action or Died	28th April 1917, age 33
Commemorated	Bay 7, Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.
Unit	13th Battalion, Essex Regiment
Rank	Private, Service Number 41436
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

David Edward Lowe was born in Stretham, near Ely, to Edward Lowe (1845 Stretham) and his wife Mary Coe (1843 Prickwillow). His siblings were also all born in Stretham: William (1869); Edward (1873); Mary (1875); Rosetta (1878); John (1881); and Rosetta (1886).

David's father Edward was a coal merchant and grocer, and the family lived on Back Hill in Stretham at the time of David's birth. The following year David's sister Rosetta died, early in 1884, the next girl to be born in the family was named after her dead sister.

David became a whip thong maker; he learnt his trade from George Gurney of Biggleswade, and in the 1901 Census he appears living in his employer's household in Bank Street, Biggleswade. Back in Top Street, Stretham, only his sister Mary continued to live with their parents. Edward Lowe was then working as an independent parcel carrier. Both Mary and Rosetta were living with their parents in 1911, when the family home was Berry Green, Stretham. David's mother Mary died in 1915

David returned to his home village to marry Mary Ann Pope (1881 Stretham) in 1907, and in 1911 they were living in the High Street in Littleport with their son John (1909 Stretham). Mary's widowed father John Pope (1840 Stretham) was also part of the household. David had set up his own whip thong making business in Littleport. The couple's son William was born in 1912, to be followed by Benjamin late in 1913, Dorothy in 1915, and finally David junior was born early in 1917, just before his father's death. The family moved into Ely shortly after the 1911 census, as David became the caretaker of the Ely Liberal Club.

When call up came David went to Newmarket to enlist in the Cambridgeshire Regiment (Service Number 6714). He was later transferred into the Essex Regiment where he became a member of a Lewis Gun team. He fought in the various phases of the Battle of Arras. David died on the first day of the Battle of Arleux and is remembered on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. The Battalion had been attacking the enemy lines at Oppy village; they succeeded in their attack, but lost a large number of men in the process. The local newspaper reported:

"Pte. D. E. Lowe, Essex Regiment, son of Mr Edward Lowe, the well-known Stretham carrier, was posted as missing on April 24th, and nothing has been heard of him since. He was last seen crawling out of a German trench. Pte. Lowe, who joined up on July 1st last year (1916), went to France in November. For five years he was custodian of the Ely Liberal Club, where his wife resides with their five little children."

Mary was sent her husband's effects which amounted to £ 5 5s. Early in 1919 she married William Southgate (1892).

David is remembered on the Ely Market Place Memorial.

Sydney LOWN

Born	1891
Killed in Action or Died	28th March 1918, age 26
Buried	Grave II. G. 21., Douchy-les-Ayette British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France
Unit	1 st /6 th Battalion Manchester Regiment
Rank	Private, Service Number 251579
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

Sydney Lown was the youngest of the four children of Robert Lown (1865 Smallburgh, Norfolk) and Mary Ann Pratt (1854 Smallburgh, Norfolk). After the Lowns' marriage they stayed for a period in Smallburgh where their eldest son Robert was born in 1882. They then moved to Cambridgeshire where Marion was born in Ely in 1886, Daisy in Littleport in 1889, and finally Sydney himself was born in Ely in 1891. Robert Lown senior was a police constable with the Wisbech and Isle of Ely Force and the birthplaces of his children help to show his various stations.



Sydney was born in Walpole Lane, Ely, but when his father was promoted to Sergeant the family moved to Sutton, where they lived in the High Street (1901 Census). While the family were in Sutton seven year old Marion died in 1904. Robert Lown was eventually made a police inspector, so in 1911 Robert, Mary and Sydney were living in the police station at Chatteris. Sydney was then working as a printer and compositor, while Robert junior later became one of Ely's booksellers.

Sydney enlisted in Manchester on 26th November 1915. After training in camps at Codford and Witley he was placed in the Manchester Regiment. At the same time as Sydney was preparing to go overseas his older brother, Robert Armstrong Lown, refused to attest for political reasons (he was part of a "No-Conscription" organisation) and was placed in an Non-Combatant Corps. Robert was to become infamous as one of the "Richmond Sixteen" - a group of absolutist COs—who were selected to be made an example of by being taken to France where they could be executed for deserting in the face of the enemy. In fact the sentence was commuted to ten years imprisonment, but when Sydney went out to Egypt in June of 1916 he would have left uncertain of Robert's fate.

Sydney was in the desert until February 1917, when the Manchesters left for the Western Front. He was wounded at the end of 1917 "and had several narrow escapes". However, he was to be killed in action on the first day of the 1918 Battle of Arras (this was meant to be the great "Mars Offensive" to break the German line). He died near Arras itself when the Germans were bombarding the trenches at Ablainzevelle. His parents had moved back to Ely (10 Broad Street) and asked for his grave to bear the legend "Native of Ely—Thy Will Be Done". Sydney's grave appears to be one of only three war graves in France or Flanders which specifically mentions the City of Ely. He is also remembered on both the Ely Market Place Memorial and the St Mary's Memorial .

Sydney's brother Robert remained in prison until May 1920.

Charles William LUCAS

Born	1870
Killed in Action or Died	15th July 1915, age 45
Commemorated	Panel 21, Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Unit	2 nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment
Rank	Private, Service Number 3/9430
Awards	1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal

An article from the Cambridge Independent Press of 30th July 1915 reads:

"...Pte. W.C. Lucas, of Silver Street, Ely, having been killed in action in France on July 15th. He was engaged with the remainder of his company in the work of erecting a barricade, when a shell burst close to him, death being instantaneous. The late private, who was known to many in Ely, was in the 2nd Battalion of the Suffolk Regt., and letters which have been received by his wife testify to his popularity and to the sorrow felt at his loss....Mrs Lucas received a letter from Q.M.S. J. Taylor, 2nd Suffolks,"I have known your husband now for months, and he was a thorough soldier, always doing duty without the slightest hesitation, and we are all very sorry to lose him. He was buried near Ypres, and has a cross erected over his grave. He is buried beside two of his comrades, who were killed with him."

The grave may have been marked in 1915, but it was not identifiable by the end of the War, and Pte Lucas was remembered on the Menin Gate instead. But was he "Charles William Lucas", as on the Ely Memorial, or "William Charles Lucas" as on the Menin Gate and in the newspaper article?

Charles William Lucas was the son of Charles Lucas (1846 Ely) and Ann Feast (1849 Ely). Charles and Ann were both from families of garden labourers and had been near neighbours in Potters Lane, Ely. Charles senior had literally "married the girl next door".

In 1871 the Lucas family, including eight month old Charles, were lodging in the house of William Godlington in Potters Lane, Ely. They were not the only lodgers as Mary and William Feast, mother and son, shared the house; these were Charles junior's grandmother and uncle. A few days after the census was taken Charles' mother Ann died, aged just twenty-one. At this point Charles' grandmother Mary Feast (1833 Ely) took on the care of her grandson.

In the 1881 Census Charles was living at his grandmother's house in Potters Lane—this seems to be the same household in which he was living in the 1871 Census, as William Godlington is boarding with the family, and his uncle William Feast, along with his wife and daughter, are also in the house. *(This suggests that the 1871 census should actually have shown Mary Feast as the householder, not William Goldington.)* The men of the household were gardener's labourers and the women were their assistants. Charles' father, now a widower, had returned to live in his parents' house with his two unmarried sisters. His father, Richard Lucas (1808 Saffron Walden), was also a gardener's labourer.

In 1887 Charles Lucas senior married Elizabeth Fulcher (1860 Ely). He continued to live in the family home in Potters Lane and in the 1891 Census the four people in the household are Charles and Elizabeth, his mother Sarah (now a widow on parish relief as Richard Lucas had died in 1888) and his niece Mary. In the 1891 Census Charles junior was no longer in Potters Lane; he was staying with his uncle Thomas Lucas in Attercliffe, Yorkshire, and working with his as a labourer in a blast furnace. It was probably this experience which helped him to gain employment as a gas stoker when he returned to Ely.

In the 1901 Census Charles was back in Potters Lane living with his father and stepmother. His father was still working as a gardener's labourer and his stepmother was a charwoman, while Charles was a gas stoker. Charles' widowed grandmother Sarah Lucas (1823 Saffron Walden) was still part of the family. Grandmother Mary Feast had died in 1899.

In the 1911 Census Charles was still living with his father and stepmother in Potters Lane; both he and his father had become labourers on the road. Also in the household was his uncle Robert Wilson (1862 Shelford), who was a farm worker.

Charles had been registered at birth as Charles William Lucas, and this is the name shown on all the census records in which he appears, but late in 1912 he married under the name of William Charles Lucas. Is it possible that in fact he had been called William by his family all this time—or did his bride prefer the name “William”? Charles / William’s wife was Cecilia Elizabeth Lucas (nee Haylock 1875 Bethnal Green). Cecilia was the widow of farm labourer William Lucas; their marriage had lasted only eighteen months due to William’s untimely death in May 1912 at the age of thirty-six—and this may go some way to explaining why she called her second husband William! William Lucas had been a second cousin of Charles, and William and Cecilia had lived nearby in Broad Street. Cecilia had had three illegitimate sons William, Albert and Bertram; the eldest were eleven and nine respectively at the time of her second marriage, but the youngest son Bertram had died in October 1911, aged four.



The new Lucas family set up home at 14 Silver Street, Ely.

Soldier William Charles Lucas fought with the Suffolks in actions around Bellewaarde, but died during what is best described as a period of “static warfare”, when the army continued to gradually improve and consolidate its trenches at the unhappy cost of 300 men a day from sniping and shellfire -this is exactly what Private Lucas was doing when he was killed in action. The register of soldiers’ effects shows that Cecilia received £6 4s 2d at her husband’s death, and a further £3 in 1919.

Charles is commemorated on the Ely Market Place Memorial and in St Mary’s Church.

John Herbert LUPSON

Born	24th May 1885
Killed in Action or Died	9th September 1916, age 33
Buried	Grave I. C. 8. Sunken Road Cemetery, Contalmaison, Somme, France
Unit	3 rd Battalion Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment.), 1st Canadian Division, 1st Brigade,
Rank	Private, Service Number 138484
Awards	British War Medal and Victory Medal

At the time he died **John Herbert Lupson's** home was 657 King Street East, Toronto, Canada, but his family roots went back to Ely. He was a "middle" child in a family of twelve children the sons and daughters of Richard Lupson (1850 Ely) and his wife Sarah Ann Flack (1848 Littleport). The family lived in Ely and consisted of Sophy (1869), Michael (1871), Richard (1875), Emma (1878), Emily (1880), Susan (1881), Ellen (1882), Edward (1884), John Herbert (1885), Bertram (1886), Frederick William (1888), and Oliver (1890). John Herbert was known, at least in later life, by his middle name of **Herbert**.

Richard Lupson was a carpenter and the family home was first in Broad Street, Ely, although they later moved to Waterside, which is probably where Herbert was born. By the 1891 Census, the first in which Herbert appears, the family was on Forehill and his older siblings had begun work, Sophy as a housemaid and Michael as a factory hand.

In 1901 the Lupsons were in Station Road, living in the house next to the Coal Office. Richard had given up his work as a carpenter and had established his own business as a hackney carter (this helps explain why the family had moved so close to the railway station) and Herbert and his brother Edward were working in the family business. Bertram had just left school and was working as a brewer's clerk. Also in the household was a nine month old grandson, William Lupson, who was Sophy's illegitimate child.

In the 1911 Census the family living at Station Road consisted only of Richard and Sarah, and Sophy and her two children (she had just had a daughter who was later to be named Mary). The census includes the sad news that six of the twelve children of the family had died, these included Emma (aged one), Emily (less than a year), Susan (aged four). Herbert's brother Edward had died in May 1905 aged twenty-one and his youngest brother Oliver died in June 1906. These last two would probably have been the only ones who had died that Herbert would remember. However, in 1911 Herbert himself was nowhere near Ely—in 1910 he had emigrated to Canada, and in 1911 he was living in Toronto South.

Herbert's family followed or preceded him to Canada, and later Michael, Frederick and Bert were to be found fighting alongside Herbert in the Canadian Forces. Their parents were still living in Ely—at 4 The Range—but Herbert's mother certainly came to Canada and was in Toronto for a period, as seventeen year old Michael was living with her when he enlisted in 1917. Older brother Richard was also settled in the city.

On Valentine's Day 1914 Herbert married Ethel May Stephens (nee LaBallister, 1888). They were married by Reverend H.C. Dixon at their home, 109 Sumach Street, Toronto, York County., Ontario, Canada. She was 28, living at 109 Sumach Street, and described as born Toronto, widow, Church of England. He was 27, also living at 109 Sumach Street, a bachelor, a labourer, and an Anglican. Richard and Mary Lupson witnessed the marriage—this was Herbert's brother Richard and his wife Mary Nicholas. It appears that Herbert had married his widowed landlady. Ethel



had two children who became Herbert's stepchildren, these were Frederick Stephens (1906) and Dorothy Stephens (1913).



Herbert was one of many English born men who responded to the call to enlist and fight with the Canadian forces in the War. He began military service on 27th August 1915 at Toronto, where he passed his medical examination and became regimental number 138484. His service record shows he was then working as a linesman for the Bell Telephone Company. His next of kin was listed as his wife Ethel, and their family home as 616 Dundas Street West, Toronto. He was described as 5 feet 7 1/4 inches tall, with a fresh complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair. He had chickenpox scars, a scar on the base of his right thumb, and a tattoo in memory of his brother Oliver.

Herbert and Ethel's son Jack Lupson was born in 1915, the same year his father departed for ever. Surprisingly, when Jack appears with his widowed mother in the 1921 Canadian Census it is stated that both his parents were from Quebec, of French origin, and Roman Catholic—Jack had temporarily lost his English heritage and the links with Ely were forgotten. Ethel married her third husband, Joseph Hilton (1897), in 1923; in this record she is described as Methodist, the same as her new husband. Ethel appears to have changed church affiliation at least three times in her life.... usually on marriage.

The Canadians reached England in March 1916 and reached the trenches for the first time in June. In France they were first involved in static trench warfare. The prolonged battle on the Somme opened with terrific casualties on 1st July 1916, but the Canadians were not in action until September at Poizieres, and it was here Herbert was killed when his Battalion was in the trenches at Sausage Valley (La Boisselle), probably from the heavy artillery fire which went on that day..

Herbert is commemorated in the Memorial Room of the Peace Tower in Ottawa's Parliament Buildings as well as on Ely's Market Place Memorial.