



News from Poland

On 22nd August this year Iain and Alison Biddle completed their trio of Cross deliveries for Albert George Thomlinson. Iain, as chair of Round Table, had placed a cross at a grave in St Mary's churchyard on 3rd August 2014 and then followed this up on 24th January 2015 by laying a wreath at the Dunkirk Memorial, where Albert is officially commemorated by CWGC. When we discovered that he had died whilst a PoW in Poland, CWGC investigators identified the likely burial plot and so the



Biddles were able to complete their mission. The cemetery is very overgrown so they placed the wreath by the remnants of the entrance gates. The full story is recounted in our book "Thame Remembers the fallen"



Old German War Cemetery, Nysa

On Monday this week we were very surprised to receive a Facebook message to say that the story had been covered by the Nysa city newspaper who had published this article. In translation it tells about the project and about Albert Tomlinson.

It has also been picked up by a Nysa history group who said that. "So far no-one in Nysa spoke or wrote about this Englishman from Thame. His story was unknown. Thanks to your project and the people who visited Nysa, the hitherto unknown story of A G Thomlinson will become part of the local history of the city of Nysa. Thank you for that. I value and respect what you do. This is a great initiative,"

I am sure that we will be in touch further on this.

There is also mention in the article of further information which we are following up. (see below)

Nysa: Brytyjski żołnierz II wojny pochowany w naszym mieście

Wieniec kryje niesamowitą historię

Przy starym cmentarzu wojennym na ulicy Krasickiego w Nysie od kilku dni na słupie przy wejściu znajduje się wieniec, z treścią w języku angielskim. Kryje on niesamowitą historię.

- Minęło tyle lat od wojny, a książka z zagranicy pofatygowal się i przejechał do Polski z takim wieniec - zauważył z uznaniem nasz czytelnik Janusz Wójcik, który przysłał nam zdjęcia.

Wieniec kryje tajemnicę, którą udało nam się wyjaśnić. Z zamieszczonej do niego treści wynika, że na starym wojennym niemieckim cmentarzu został pochowany szeregowiec Albert George Thomlinson. Zmarł 20 lipca 1940 roku. Albert George Thomlinson był żołnierzem pułku o nazwie Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry (pułku lekkiej piechoty armii brytyjskiej).

Wieniec ten został umieszczony przez Thame Remembers - stowarzyszenie z miejscowości Thame w Anglii. W 100-lecie zakończenia I wojny światowej realizuje ono projekt wyszukiwania i upamiętniania swoich mieszkańców, którzy nie wrócili z wszystkich działań wojennych od 1914 roku. Z niewielkiego

wówczas Thame liczącego ok. 2900 osób z II wojny światowej nie wróciło ok. 400 mieszkańców. Stowarzyszenie Thame Remembers wyszukuje informacje o ich losach, a w miejscu ich pochówku kładzie wieniec.

Na wieniec, obok nazwy fundatora, jest jego charakterystyczny krzyż. Zdobni on wszystkie miejsca spoczynku żołnierzy z Thame.

Na stronie stowarzyszenia znajdują się natomiast relacje z upamiętniania takich miejsc pochówku Brytyjczyków na całym świecie. Z Nysy takiej jeszcze nie ma.

Na stronie stowarzyszenia znaleźliśmy natomiast informacje o losach Alberta George Thomlinsona. Urodził się on w USA, ale w 1921 roku z rodzicami wyjechał do Wielkiej Brytanii. W czasie II wojny światowej w 1939 roku z IV batalionem Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry został przetranszowany do Francji jako część brytyjskiej ekspedycji wojennej. Brał



Brytyjski żołnierz Albert George Thomlinson zmarł 20 lipca 1940



Taki wieniec zawieszono na słupie przy starym cmentarzu wojennym na ulicy Krasickiego w Nysie



Thame Remembers Private Albert George Thomlinson Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry Died: 20 July 1940 Buried in the Old German War Cemetery, Nysa, Poland

Thomlinson's name appeared in the documentation discovered in 1946 in Łambinowice and concerning the deaths of English captives. It is mentioned in a book by Stanisław Łukowski titled "Nazi crimes in Łambinowice and Sławęćice in the Opole region in 1939-1945" ("Śląsk" Publishing House)

Family Tree Magazine

You may recall that Family Tree Magazine covered our Project in December 2014, soon after we started. They have now followed up that article in the latest issue which went on sale this week. We are sure Wendy Townsend who is featured will be delighted.



Karen Clare reports on the latest genea news, including highlighting a selection of projects and events that commemorate the lives of our WWI ancestors. Got a story share? Email editorial@family-tree.co.uk



212 townsmen honoured across the globe

Dedicated researchers in Thame, Oxfordshire have completed a remarkable project to deliver a cross to the resting place of every man recorded on the town's war memorials, where ever that may be in the world.

The Thame Remembers project, which began on 4 August 2014 to commemorate WW1 but covers all conflicts, has seen more than 300 local people deliver Thame Remembers' crosses to graves and memorials worldwide to honour 212 men. Most were delivered to France, Belgium and the UK, but others were taken to Singapore, India, Turkey, Egypt, New Zealand and even naval war graves, such as the hospital ship *Glenart Castle*, sunk in the Bristol Channel in 1918.

The project, which was a collaboration between Thame Museum and Thame Town Council, will end on Armistice Day, 11 November 2018. Project leader David Bretherton said: 'It is a fantastic achievement, taken us to places we would never have considered and taken over our lives with the research and organising visits.'

The team is producing a book about the project, to be launched on 21 October at Thame Literary Festival, and a play entitled *Ten Tommies From Thame* - which follows the stories of 10 men who joined up together in August 1914 - will be staged at Thame Players Theatre on 9 and 10 November. www.thameremembers.org

Wendy Townsend delivers a Thame Remembers cross to the grave in Cairo War Cemetery of George Crick, who died on 24 September 1915

Diary dates

11 Aug to 19 Dec '18
Thame Remembers
Exhibition
Thame Museum

21 Oct 2018
Book Launch
5pm. Barns Centre
TAL Festival

9 Nov 2018
Remembrance Field
of Crosses
Memorial Gardens

9 & 10 Nov 2018
'Ten Tommies from
Thame'
Players Theatre
Tickets available from
Thame Players & Spear Travels

11 Nov 2018
10.50 am
Remembrance Service
Upper High Street

7 pm
Beacon Lighting
Memorial Gardens

7.05 pm
Bell Ringing
St Mary's Church

7.30 pm
Thame Remembers
Celebration
Spread Eagle, Thame

Ringling Remembers

On 11th November 2018, 100 years since the Armistice, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country.

Church bells remained restricted throughout the course of the war and only rang freely once the Armistice was declared on 11th November 1918. On that day the ringing of church bells erupted spontaneously across the country, as an outpouring of relief that four years of war had come to an end.

The bell ringers programme will honour that moment and the 1,400 bell ringers who died in the war by recruiting 1,400 new bell ringers to take part in the commemorations. Thame Bell Ringers will be taking part in this national commemoration at St Mary's Church at 7.05pm immediately following the lighting of a beacon at the War Memorial.

STOP PRESS

Thame Town Council have confirmed that the War Memorial is to be cleaned in time for the Armistice Centenary Remembrance Service, with the work due take place w/c 1st October

Final Celebration



Spread Eagle 1918

May we extend an invitation to everyone who has taken part in the Thame Remembers Project to join our celebration event on 11th November 2018 at 7.45pm. We have booked the banqueting suite at the Spread Eagle, where we will serve up a buffet supper and be entertained by some strolling "Players" who will immerse us in the atmosphere of 1918, interspersed with short speeches, recollections, and mutual congratulations on a job well done.

Initially we are restricting bookings to those who have been involved with the project, but if you have delivered a cross, joined us on one of our Battlefield Tours or in any way made a significant contribution to the project then we hope that you will join us on this occasion.

We are able to subsidise the cost of this celebration and so have kept the price down to just £12.50 each. Please book through David on 01844 215178 or Mike on 07973 440229.



This newsletter is printed and published by Thame Museum Trust and distributed free to all

This paper is intended as a digest of news items about the Thame Remembers project to keep the people of Thame up to date with what is happening.

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Ten Tommies from Thame

Tickets are selling fast for our revue 'Ten Tommies from Thame' at Thame Players Theatre on 9th and 10th November.

The play is based on a Thame Gazette report at the end of August 1914 about ten men from Thame signing up for active service. Research by the Thame Remembers team has filled in a lot of background which has enabled us to present their subsequent experiences and individual fortunes as a stage play which explores the impact of war on them and on their families back in Thame.

Conceived by and written as a collaboration between Mike Dyer and local author Catherine Jones, the production will feature some of our own volunteers amongst the cast.

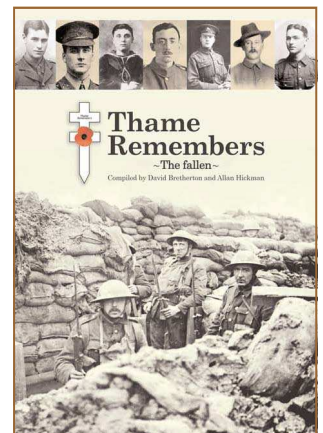
Tickets at £6 each (no concessions) are available from Spear Travels in Greyhound Walk or through the website

Thame Remembers Legacy Book

With all of our 212 crosses delivered our book is now complete and with the printer. It will be launched at Thame Arts and Literary Festival on Sunday 21st October, 5pm at the Barns Centre, where David and Mike will be on stage in conversation with Dr Ann Barrington.

The book records how the project came about and how it has progressed, some general contextual background about the conflicts, a report on every man remembered in Thame, details of each Cross delivery, and much more. The book is available to pre-order at the discount price of £20 instead of the cover price of £25.

Please contact David for more details 01844 215178



Thame Remembers is a project of Thame, Oxfordshire to commemorate the centenary of World War One by researching those from Thame who fell in all conflicts worldwide, and remembering them by placing a Thame Remembers Cross on their grave or memorial wherever in the world that may be. If you feel that you can help please contact Dave on 01844 215178.