



Lezant Parish War Memorial



J. C. Davies



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Contents

This work is very much incomplete and ongoing;

throughout I have tried to ensure that I have provided the most accurate account possible, however in the course of my research there have been subjects where the evidence has proven to be elusive, confusing or contradictory, requiring at times a certain amount of educated conjecture, although I have tried to keep this to an absolute minimum.

I would therefore be most grateful for any relevant observations, corrections, information, photographs or documents.



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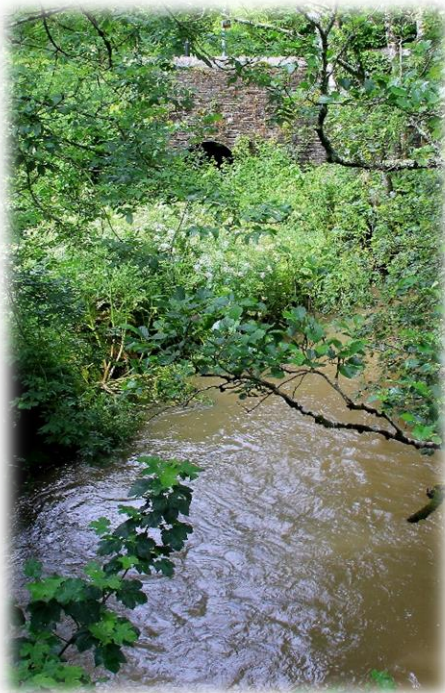
Lezant Parish War Memorial... Introduction

1. Introduction



Lezant War Memorial in the Spring, looking towards Landue Bridge and the A388.

Just yards from the A388 by Landue Bridge, nestled in rhododendrons within its walled enclosure, stands the grey granite cross that is our parish war memorial. Unlike so many other monuments around the country our memorial does not take centre stage on the village green, or alongside the parish church, it sits in relative tranquillity, beside a country lane and a stream.



The Lowley Brook at Landue Bridge.

Although the stream, the Lowley Brook, its swirling waters snaking their way south east towards its confluence with the River Tamar near Greystone, is virtually invisible from the memorial, as it flows under the Landue Bridge, (itself a Grade II Listed structure), largely hidden by the bridge parapets and within the trees and abundant flora that line its course on either side of the bridge.

For much of the time the monument stands in solitude, visited by only those that tend it or happen to be passing by, except on Remembrance Day, when on that November morning, whatever the weather, it bustles with parishioners, some of whom, raised locally, still with family connections to those listed on the memorial, come to pay their respects and take part in the Act of Remembrance held there.



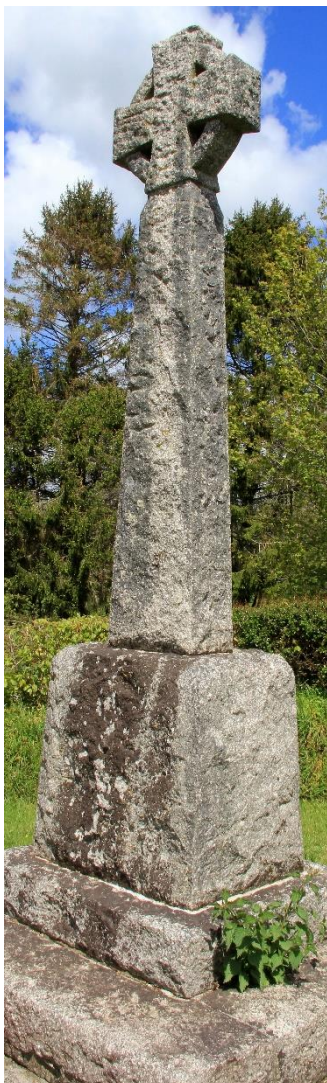
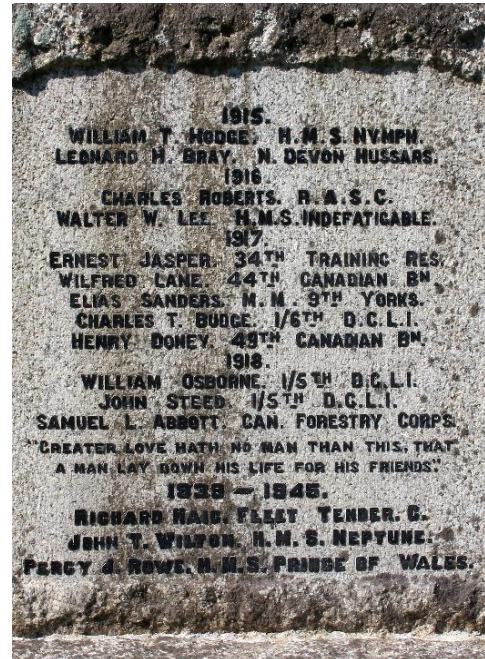
Lezant Parish War Memorial... Introduction

On its plinth the names of the men of this parish, who died during the First World War;

**William T. Hodge
Leonard H. Bray
Charles Roberts
Walter W. Lee
Ernest Jasper
Wilfred Lane
Elias Sanders
Charles T. Budge
Henry Doney
William Osborne
John Steed
Samuel L. Abbott**

and the Second World War;

**Richard Haig
John T. Wilton
Percy J. Rowe**



The memorial records 15 men and their selfless sacrifice, but reveals little else about these faceless names; where they met their end, their lives before duty beckoned, or the families they left behind.

Among the 15 some were regulars and already serving, several volunteered for service after the outbreak of war while some were conscripted.

They served in many theatres, from Europe to the Far East, enduring the mud and deprivation of the trenches of the Western Front, the extreme temperatures and rocky terrain of Turkish Thrace, and the unforgiving waters of the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific.

These men were involved in some of the most notorious campaigns of both World Wars, a number killed in action at places whose names are now synonymous with some of the most brutal and savage battles in the history of warfare; Passchendaele, Gallipoli and Jutland amongst them, while others died of disease before ever reaching foreign shores.

Whatever the circumstances of their deaths, they all answered the call and met their fate while serving their country.

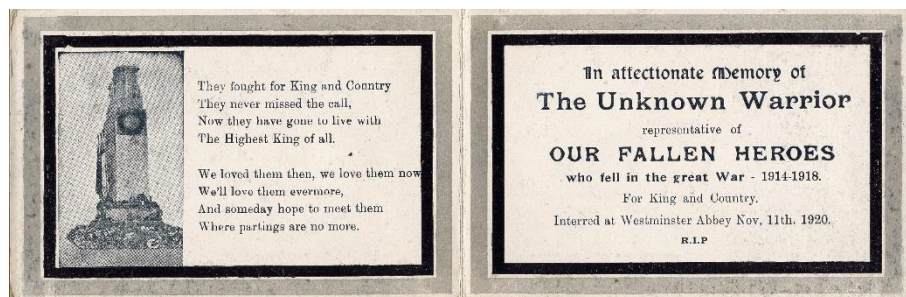


Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

2. History

Aside from the men that it recalls, the memorial itself has its own story; as the fighting ended, those on the home front, those who had lost loved ones, friends and neighbours, those who had witnessed the carnage, those who had served and survived, began to come to the realisation that such sacrifice, such duty, such service, must not be allowed to be forgotten.

Throughout the nation, in every town and village, there was a surge of effort to honour and enshrine the names of those who had performed these most demanding and unenviable tasks. And so, just six months after the armistice was signed, the people of the parish of Lezant thoughts, just like those of so many other parishes around the country, turned to how to commemorate those of the parish who had served.



Memorial card for the Unknown Warrior, a national symbol of loss, mourning and remembrance, interred at Westminster Abbey 11th November 1920.

Reflecting this sentiment, at a parish council meeting on Wednesday, 16th April 1919, Parish Councillor Mr. Ernest Brawn, proposed that a parish meeting be called to discuss whether a war memorial should be erected.

The meeting was duly arranged, and held on Thursday, 8th May 1919, at Trekenner School, (which would be the venue for all of the future public meetings regarding the creation of a parish war memorial), where the idea of some sort of permanent memorial was embraced.

Mr. Jennings suggested a book, listing the names of all those who served, be kept at each place of worship in the parish, he also agreed to interview all of the men who had served and the parents and relatives of the fallen, to get a sense of their wishes and views on the subject. Discussions however as to exactly what form a memorial should take were limited, as it was thought that such a decision could not be made without a clearer idea of the level of funding.

As it was felt that the parish had been poorly represented at the meeting, a further public meeting was called for; and this time to improve attendance, notices of it were read at all of the places of worship prior to it.

On Friday, 16th May 1919, at the next meeting, a number of diverse ideas were put forward regarding the form of the memorial, suggestions included a Post and Telephone Office, tablets at each place of worship, a Recreation Room, and Mr. H. Spurr thought a granite cross very suitable.

A committee, comprising of Mr. J. S. Tregoning, T. Goodman, A. Fry, Mr. A. Wise and Mr. Jennings was appointed to investigate the potential costs of each of the suggestions.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

Throughout the summer and autumn the information was gathered, and the findings acted on at a Public Parish meeting, on Monday, 17th November 1919, where Parish Councillor Mr. William Henry Spurr, proposed the erection of a Granite Cross at Landue Bridge, and Mr. Charles P. Goodman proposed the installation of tablets at each place of worship. Both proposals were carried, and a group of nine women; Miss Gerry, Mrs. H. Spurr, Mrs. Clark, Miss Tickell, Miss Doney, Miss Tregoning, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Jennings and Mrs. Bant, were elected as 'collectors', to collect money from the parish to fund the projects, Mrs. Jennings to act as their secretary and Mr. J. S. Tregoning as the treasurer.



Trekenner School; at the time of the meetings the wing in the foreground served as the Head Teachers home.

Within a month, on Monday, 8th December 1919, a further meeting was held, when Mr. J. S. Tregoning reported on the results of the collection; and statements from the collectors and others made it clear that the proposal to place tablets within the places of worship was generally disapproved of, and it was therefore agreed that the amendment to include them be withdrawn. It was decided to adopt the plan for a granite cross, for which there were two suggestions; Miss Gerry proposed that the memorial be erected in the churchyard, this plan however was subsequently withdrawn in favour of Mr. William Henry Spurr's original proposal;

*“that a granite monument in the form of a Cornish Cross
be erected at Landue Bridge”.*

Mr. John Simmons Tregoning confirmed that the offer he had made at a previous meeting, to provide a site at Landue Bridge, held good, and the proposal was therefore carried unanimously, (the land was officially transferred to the Lezant Parish Council on 24th April 1923, with the signing of a Deed of Gift).

Now all that remained to be decided was the content of the memorials inscription; initially it was suggested that the names of all of those who served be placed on the monument, but Mr. Fry proposed that it bear only the names of the fallen, this amendment was duly carried, and so the details of the memorial had been finalised.

The collectors were asked to inform the parishioners of the decisions, and it was agreed that as Mr. James Hillson of Trecarrell, had suggested, upon completion the memorial be placed as a sacred trust in the hands of the parish council who would be charged to see that it was properly cared for.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

By the spring of 1921, the ground work was complete; Mr. T. Gregory laid the concrete foundation, Mr. W. J. Baker, Mr. C. Maddever, Mr. W. Northcott, Mr. E. Olver and Mr. J. Folley worked on the site and Cornish hedge, the kissing gate procured from Messrs. J. T. Gillard and Company was installed, as was the memorial, a Celtic cross supplied and crafted by J. Sweet and Sons of Liskeard, hewn from granite most likely from either their Golddigging Quarry, or their then recently acquired Caradon Quarry, which had been delivered and erected on the plot of land donated by Mr. J. S. Tregoning.



Caradon, or as it was Silver Grey Quarry, July 2021. The quarry floor now flooded, the water partially concealing the half submerged remains of parts of the heavy machinery that was once so active.

Strwn around the site hundreds of large cut slabs, many of which are of a type of granite that very closely matches that used for the Lezant memorial.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History



Lezant War Memorial unveiling, 15th May 1921.

On Whit Sunday, 15th May 1921 the memorial was publicly unveiled in the presence of a large crowd.

The Anglican Reverend William Henry Lancashire Jennings, the parish Curate, led the service with a prayer, which was followed by an address given by the Wesleyan Junior Minister, Reverend Thomas Owen Beswarick, himself a veteran. There was a bible reading by Mr. J. Hillson before Miss Tregoning pulled the cord to unveil the memorial, and Mr. Thomas Goodman, who presided, passed the war memorial to the Parish Council, Mr. W. Oke Jnr. sounded the last post.



Lezant War Memorial 100 years after its unveiling, May 2021.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

Nearly a year after the unveiling, on Monday, 13th March 1922, at a parish council meeting, the accounts for the memorial were reviewed; where it was shown how the public collection and donations had matched the cost of its erection.

An additional collector to those originally elected, Miss Maddever, was included on the list, but the details certainly establish Miss Emily Grace Tregoning as by far the most successful collector. Whether as part of one of the wealthiest families in the parish, she enhanced the amount collected with her own funds, or her social position allowed her more time pursuing donations, or afforded her access to a rather more influential and affluent circle than the others is not disclosed, but whatever the circumstances were, the figures confirm what a wonderful effort was made by all of the collectors, and just how generous and supportive the residents of the parish had been.

Contributions

<u>Collected by</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>d</u>
Mrs. Bant	10	0	9
Mrs. Clarke	17	5	6
Miss B. Gerry	8	10	0
Mrs. Jennings	5	12	0
Miss Maddever	5	12	3
Miss Tickell	7	2	6
Mrs. W. H. Spurr	9	16	6
Miss E. G. Tregoning	83	1	6
Mrs. Walters	5	4	0
Rev. W. H. L. Jennings	17	11	9
Treasurer	8	19	5
Bank interest	5	10	3
<i>Total:</i>	184	6	5

Payments

	<u>£</u>	<u>s</u>	<u>d</u>
J. Sweet and Sons: Granite Memorial	125	0	0
Lettering	13	1	11
Manual labour on ground and hedge:			
Mr. W. J. Baker	10	8	0
Mr. C. Maddever	2	16	0
Mr. W. Northcott	4	8	0
Mr. E. Olver	2	0	0
Mr. J. Folley		8	0
Messrs. J. T. Gillard and Co.: Iron Gate	7	17	6
Mr. T. Gregory: Work on foundations	5	15	0
Cement	9	12	0
Sand		2	6
Cornwall County Council: Gravel	1	17	6
Mr. J. Smith: Stone rubble	1	0	0
<i>Total:</i>	184	6	5



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

Less than twenty years later, in 1939, the world was plunged into another global conflict, by the end of World War Two, in 1945 the toll could be counted; Lezant Parish had paid with three of its sons, who had bought at such a high price, the right for their names to be included on the war memorial. However this time, following the cessation of hostilities, there was less of a rush to honour these men. In the months following the war, efforts were made to collect money for a Parish Welcome Home Fund, and on 8th June 1946 a Victory Day Celebration was held that the parish council helped to organise & partly fund.

It was not until a meeting on Wednesday, 21st January 1948 that it was proposed to clean the memorial and add the names of those lost in the recent war, and in response to this, two months later on Wednesday, 24th March 1948, the clerk presented an estimate from Piper Brothers for cleaning and repairing the memorial's iron railings, priced at £6 5s 0d, and providing letters for the new names at 12/- per dozen; it was agreed to accept the estimate, with a committee formed to supervise the work.

By the following autumn at a meeting on Wednesday, 20th October 1948, the work still to be completed, the council had grown concerned that the new names had not yet been applied to the memorial, and called for Mr. Piper to see to this at once, in order that they be ready for the unveiling on Sunday, 7th November 1948, when a united service would be held.

Sometime between the meeting and the unveiling the letters were applied, exactly who it was from Piper Brothers that carried out the work, or how much haste it was done in, does not appear to have been recorded, but the name of John T. Wilton was added to the memorial, and it was presumably at this point that his first name was misspelt, which remained the case for over half a century!



Additional inscription added by Pipers after WW2, still with John Wilton's forename misspelt in September 2007.

Whether or not this was noted at the time it does not seem to have prevented the unveiling ceremony, which appears to have gone ahead on the specified date.

On Thursday, 2nd June 1949, at the parish council meeting, it was reported that, as had been the case some 30 years previously, Mr. Tregoning, true to his word, having offered to pay for the repairs and additions of new names to the memorial, had provided a cheque for £11 to match the invoice received from W. B. and C. F. Piper Ltd. for the work.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

Since it's unveiling numerous people have been involved in the care and upkeep of the memorial, one of the earliest being Mr. H. Osborne, who in 1922, on having to leave the parish passed the work onto his brother.

For a number of years the parish council specifically employed someone as the caretaker, in 1945 Mr. James K. Maddever, a Cowman living at Landue Bridge, held the position, for which he received a salary of £2 10s 0d, his pay remaining the same until 21st March 1951, when it was increased to £5.

At some point in the ensuing years the council ceased employing a caretaker, and now when needed, use contractors for the grass cutting, hedge trimming, running repairs and general maintenance, although the flower displays are the creation and work of local volunteers.

Norman Budge, younger brother of the Charles T. Budge listed on the memorial, was for many years involved in the care of the memorial, and in 1984 wrote down his recollections of its history and the work he had undertaken as part of its upkeep; he believed that when first discussed J.S. Tregoning offered to enclose the site with a stone hedge and beech fence, and plant shrubs at the back of the memorial, and for several years after, the gardeners of Landue, (the Tregoning's estate), cut the hedge and grass.

In 1936 when the County Council raised the level of the slip road from the A388 to the old bridge, Norman, around that time a Roadman, living at Wooda Bridge, together with George Lane, raised the memorial's entrance gate and laid a concrete step. The gate was raised again in 1972 when the new bridge was built and the A388 realigned.



The kissing gate sitting on the concrete steps laid by Norman Budge and George Lane.

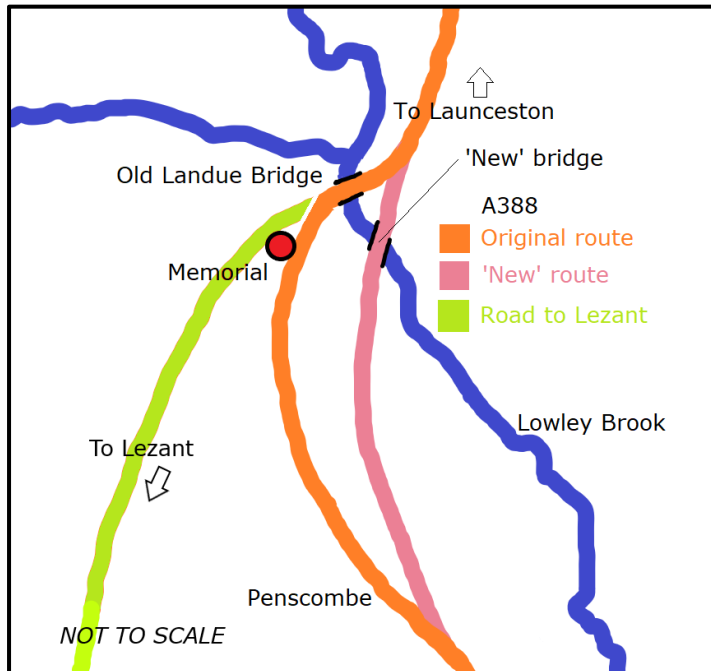
During the time after World War Two that he cared for the monument, Norman cleaned and painted the gate twice, and with George Sanders twice cleaned the granite.

He remembered in the years between the wars Armistice Day services at the memorial, (which were moved to the Parish Church if the weather was unkind), organised by the Parish Council, the parish rector taking the service, and the Methodist ministers from either Treburley or Trebuletts taking it in turns on alternate years to address the congregation. These services came to an end during World War Two.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

When the memorial was originally erected it sat in a narrow finger of land, sandwiched between two roads, where just after crossing the old Landue Bridge, the main Launceston to Saltash road, (which was designated the A388 within a few years of the memorial unveiling), forked to go to Lezant and Trekenner.



In the early 1970's, as mentioned by Norman Budge, the A388 was realigned, the dog-leg created by the crossing of the Lowley Brook over the old Landue bridge was eliminated by the construction of a new bridge over the Brook, allowing the A388's course to form a smooth curve, avoiding the old bridge and re-joining the original line approximately 0.28km, (306 yards), south at Penscombe, not far from what is now the main entrance to the Farm Shop and Café.

Sketch map showing how the road layout around the memorial changed after the A388 was realigned in the 1970's.

The road to Lezant and Trekenner absorbed the short section of the A388 that crossed the old bridge, to form a T-junction with the new line of the A388. The old line of the main road is now roughly echoed by the additional access road of the Farm Shop, which emerges at the gated entrance that joins the slip road that separates the memorial from the green in front it.



The 'new' A388 road bridge crossing the Lowley Brook at Landue.

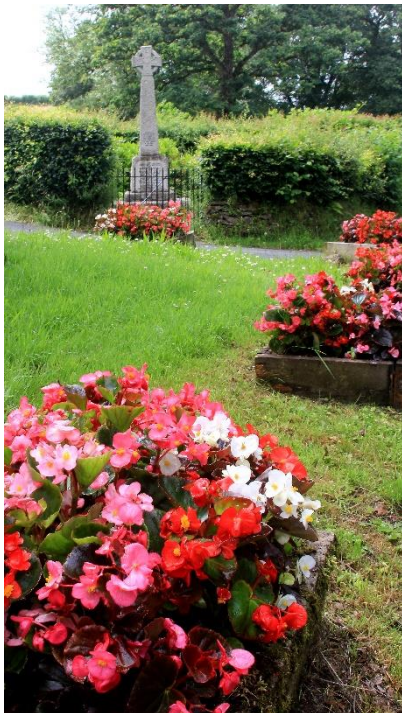


Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

To commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee in 1977 an Oak tree was planted on the green opposite the memorial, close to it is sited a rather less than elegant bench, of recycled materials, that replaces the previous wooden one. The green, despite the fact that it has for so many years now been cared for and embellished with flowers by the local community, seems to have no official designation as such, reportedly still being classed as a verge, potential decisions regarding its use and its ownership being in the hands of the County Council and their Highways department, (CORMAC), which perhaps goes someway to explain the rather overzealous use of the obtrusive signage and street furniture that seems to proliferate around the memorial.



The 'green' in 2021, with the Jubilee Oak planted in 1977.



Troughs of flowers decorating the 'green', something that seems to have been started by Mrs. Ellis.

March 1984 saw Mr. Albert and Mrs. Marianne E. Ellis, (the Penscombe Cross Post Mistress), become the memorial's carers, they enthusiastically embraced the task, and quickly orchestrated the repainting of the railings and gate, replanting bare areas of hedge, repairs to the plinth and significant changes to the immediate surroundings; the rough grass opposite the entrance of the memorial enclosure, was re-laid as a green, the edges of which and the memorial steps were adorned with flower boxes and tubs of marigolds, geraniums and wall flowers, although the wallflowers were not judged to be entirely successful since it appears that the sheep were rather partial to them! This work was funded in part by the sale of bedding plants that they raised, and sold during the week at the post office, (located in the right hand end as viewed from the road, of what is now 'Ivybank' at Penscombe Cross), and at Mrs. Mary Knight's Lezant shop at weekends.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

In 2009 with the aid of a £170 grant for repair and conservation from the War Memorials Trust, the memorial was cleaned, defective joints in the stonework were re-pointed, the inscription lettering was re-painted with black enamel and the misspelt name "JONH T. WILTON" was finally corrected to "JOHN T. WILTON"!

Two years later on 31st August 2011, Historic England, recognising the monuments cultural, historical and architectural significance, protected it by designating it a Grade II Listed building.



On Monday, 4th August 2014, one hundred years to the day that Britain entered World War One, the nation was asked to mark the exact time, by turning of the lights for an hour and lighting a candle until 11:00 p.m., the time when on Tuesday, 4th August 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany. Although a ceremony was held at the Launceston War Memorial, no official commemoration had been organised at the Lezant War Memorial, and so feeling that the men of Lezant should be included in the first national event to mark the 100th Anniversary of the First World War, my family and I, on that peaceful summer night, went to the dark and quiet site, where we left lighted candles on the memorial steps, gently illuminating the names of the fallen, during the hour of remembrance.

Candles for the fallen, Monday 4th August 2014.

2018/19 saw perhaps the greatest change to the landscape surrounding the memorial since the realignment of the A388, when the Red Ruby cattle, who often grazed the adjoining field were supplanted by a multi, obtuse angled, roofed, farm shop and restaurant, and its runway lit car parks. The farm gate at the access road to the field, which lies immediately next to the memorial, being replaced with a brutally industrial construction that can hardly be considered an improvement to the view.



The memorials 'new neighbours', the farm shop in the background, behind the somewhat obtrusive gate.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... History

Despite the World being in the grip of a global pandemic in 2020, Cornwall for a good deal of the time, escaped many of the harsher measures that had been imposed to combat the spread of the virus. And while many key public activities were either cancelled or severely restricted, including the national Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph, the Act of Remembrance at the Lezant memorial went ahead largely unchanged, the wearing of face masks amongst some of those attending being the only clue to indicate that these were not normal times.

In 2021, on the second Sunday in November the Remembrance Service was once again held at the memorial, as it has been so many times over the past one hundred years. Reflecting the very first service at the unveiling on Whit Sunday in May 1921, the service followed the now established and familiar pattern; a religious element conducted by Canon Richard Mayhew, an address, the last post, performed on the trombone by former Grenadier Guard James Trevaskis, a two minute silence, the rouse, Act of Remembrance and Commitment to Remember, as well as the names of the fallen being read. Mr. Andrew Anderson and Mr. John Pentreath jointly conducted the service.

2021 marked the memorial's own 100th anniversary, familiar, and I am sure often passed by without giving it much thought, it still has a powerful message and a warning to convey, that is perhaps more significant today than it was on the day of its unveiling; that every moment of our lives is a privilege bought and paid for by the names commemorated on the list and their comrades, and possibly more crucially, that failure to remember, ignorance of the past, provides those who would pervert the consciousness of nations, those greedy for power, the peddlers of hatred, of extremism, of radical ideologies and intolerance, the opportunity to add more names to its list.



Remembrance Sunday service, 14th November 2021, some one hundred years after the original service.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Key Figures

3. Some Key Figures in the Memorials History

Reverend Thomas Owen Beswarick,

gave the address at the memorials unveiling.

The son of a corn merchant, born on 12th February 1886, at Tywardreath, Cornwall, where at St. Andrew's church on 28th April 1886 he was baptised by Septimus Valentine Baker, the then curate. Although born in Tywardreath, he grew up in Lostwithiel, where in his mid-teens he worked as a clerk in the business that his father had established there. This, however, was obviously not his chosen vocation, and after having attended both Shebbear College, Devon and Dunheved College in Launceston, he went on to the Wesleyan Theological College at Handsworth to train for the ministry, which he entered in 1911, and in which he would remain a minister until his death, at the age of 85, on 3rd September 1971 at Exmouth in Devon.

In 1915 Thomas married Ethel Daisy Beardmore in West Bromwich, and a year later they had a son, John, born in Liskeard, the family remaining in Cornwall, when in July 1917 Thomas enlisted with the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, with whom he was deployed to France on 23rd October 1917 as a Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, 4th Class, (CF4), which was nominally equivalent to the rank of Captain.

On completion of his World War One service he returned to Cornwall, working in the Launceston area, where in 1921 his daughter Margaret was born. The same year saw him officiate as a junior Minister at the unveiling of the Lezant War Memorial, although this was not the only one that he would be involved with, as in September he would perform a similar role at the unveiling of the Egloskerry memorial.

Thomas' work would require him and his family to relocate several times over the years, and it took him to numerous locations across the country; including, by 1922 as the Methodist Minister, Whitchurch, Cardiff, before in 1925 moving to Anerley, South East London, where he stayed until 1928, Albert Road, Southsea, and Bournemouth, Hampshire.

On 22nd October 1956 his wife of over 40 years, Ethel died at St. Ives in Cornwall, the following year at the age of 71 he would re marry, spending his remaining years with his second wife, Gertrude Mary Thornburgh.

In a rather poignant footnote to his story, some forty three years after his death, in November 2014, the year that marked one hundred years since the start of the First World War, his British War and Victory medals, earned for his service during that war, were sold at an auction in Crewkerne for a few pounds!

Ernest Brawn,

the parish councillor who first proposed a parish meeting to discuss the idea of a permanent memorial.

Born on 9th September 1881 at Trekener, where he was to spend much of his life.

He married Ethel May Bartlett at Launceston United Methodist Church on 26th June 1913, with whom he had two children, Edna Mary, born on 20th October 1916, and Richard John, born on 7th May 1920.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Key Figures

Following in his father's, Richards footsteps, he made his living as a carpenter, until on 8th December 1915, at the age of 34, he signed up for the British Army, but was immediately put on the reserve list, until being mobilized on 29th January 1917, as 232131 Sapper Brawn, with a Signal Company of the Royal Engineers, who employed him as a wheelwright, and with whom he served overseas from 14th July 1917 to 15th January 1919, when he was taken to Queen Mary's Military Hospital in Whalley, Lancashire, where he spent thirteen days being treated for influenza; a survivor of both the Great War and the Spanish Flu pandemic, he was demobbed on 25th February 1919.

Returning home he resumed his work as a carpenter, and in later years while continuing in this profession also acted as the Sub Postmaster, assisted by his family, of Trekenner Post Office, where they lived.

He passed away at the age of 67 at Launceston Hospital on 20th April 1949, and was buried on 23rd April 1949 at Trebullet Methodist Chapel.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Key Figures

Reverend William Henry Lancashire Jennings,

was an active participant at the public meetings concerning the memorial, he canvassed the families of the fallen and the veterans of the parish regarding their views, raised money for the project and led the unveiling ceremony. Born in St. Helier, Jersey, on 29th October 1883, and baptised on 14th November the same year, he spent his early life there. The family later moved to Taunton, where by 1901, his father, who originated from Somerset, had retired as a Draper, and William was acting as a Pupil Teacher at a local school, a fairly common practice, that effectively provided a teaching apprenticeship to a senior pupil, who, while continuing with their own education taught younger pupils. By 1907 he was working as a Schoolmaster at Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, where on the Boxing Day of that year, at Holy Trinity, the parish church, he married the widow Ada Howell, and for several years after the couple shared the home of Ada's elderly father at 1, Cheriton Place, Westbury-On-Trym, while William continued with his career in teaching. His foray into teaching was soon to end, in Michaelmas, (Autumn term), 1912, he would embark on the path that would lead him into the clergy, a vocation that he would follow until his death; enrolling at the recently established St. John's Hall, Durham, as an art student. He passed his first year exams in the Easter term of 1913, taking his finals the following Easter, in which he unfortunately failed part I, resitting and passing it in the Michaelmas Term of 1914, and going on to take his Bachelor of Arts in litteris antiquis degree on 15th December 1914.

From Durham he would begin his work with the church in the diocese of Ripon, where he was ordained deacon in 1915 and priest in 1916. His first practical role was as Curate of St. Matthews in Little London, Leeds between 1915 and 1917, from where he moved to Cornwall, the county, where apart from a short interlude in the late 1920's, he would remain for the rest of his life, to become Curate of Lezant from 1917 to 1921.

Although his training kept him at home throughout the Great War, he and his family were not untouched by it, when on 25th September 1915, his older brother, Reginald, himself a Schoolmaster, serving as a Lance Corporal with the 18th Battalion, London Regiment was seriously wounded at Loos, dying the following day from his wounds.

By 1921 William left Lezant to become the vicar of Davidstow, remaining there until in June 1927 he and Ada travelled to Australia aboard the S.S. Balranald, where between 1927 and 1929 he was rector in the small mining and timber town of Greenbushes, Western Australia, before relocating 33 miles or so south to undertake the same role in the little town of Manjimup.

Via a short stay in Canada to visit Ada's brother, 1930 saw their return to England, settling once more in Cornwall, where William became the vicar of St. Beward, near Camelford, living in the vicarage close to St Branwalader, for the eighteen years that he held the post, until 1949.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Key Figures



St Branwalader, parish church of St. Breward, which at 700 feet above sea level is reputedly the highest church in Cornwall.

In the years from 1933 to 1938, whilst St. Brewards vicar he was also the Rural Dean of Trigg Minor, an archaic administrative area that covered an extensive swathe of Bodmin Moor.

Sadly, however, Ada's was to share very little of this time with him; she died in 1931, and was buried in the cemetery of her husband's church on 15th August 1931.

His later years were spent at Glinfield, Fernleigh Road, Wadebridge, and although officially retired, and no longer having his own parish, he was granted Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Truro which he retained until he passed away at Barncoose, Illogan, Redruth on 23rd February 1962, at the age of 78; he was buried at St. Breoke Churchyard, St. Breok near Wadebridge, three days later on 26th February.

William Henry Spurr,

proposed the form of the memorial that was adopted and built.

A farmer's son born in 1887 in Lezant, and baptised on 13th November 1887 at St. Briochus Church, the eldest of three children, he lived and worked on his father's Trekener farm.

He was living at West Penrest, when on 1st November 1917 at Linkinhorne, he married Edith Hicks, a farmer's daughter from Trelabe, Linkinhorne, and together they had one son, Henry John, born on 14th August 1928, who would go on to farm at Milton Abbot.

Their marriage would last until William's death on 28th November 1934 at Launceston Hospital.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Key Figures

Joseph Sweet and Sons,

supplied the granite for, and crafted the memorial.

Granite merchants and monumental masons based in Liskeard, they occupied several sites there over the years, including premises on Russell Street, Barn Street and the Parade, where the Post Office now stands, as well as until its closure in 1969, a depot in Coburg Street, Plymouth.

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At the time the memorial was supplied Joseph, the company's founder, who died on 18th February 1898, had been succeeded by his son Joseph, born in Moorswater, Liskeard on 15th August 1863, and baptised at the parish church of St. Martin's on 28th December 1864, who now ran the thriving local business that his father had established around 1873. As well as providing granite for a variety of projects including London's Victoria Station, they also offered a vast array of funerary monuments, which were made in their premises in Liskeard. They were involved in the supply of several other World War One memorials in the county, including those of Liskeard, Egloskerry, St. Neot and Morval.

J. Sweet and Sons advert.
(Image courtesy of Liskeard Museum)

The granite for the Lezant memorial was most likely quarried from either their Golddigging Quarry, or their then recently acquired Caradon or as it was also known as Silver Grey Quarry, both of which lie on the eastern edge of Bodmin Moor close to the village of Minions, and although largely dormant, are now owned by Lantoom Ltd., who still occasionally use stone from them.



Caradon, or as Sweets renamed it Silver Grey Quarry c1930's.
(Image courtesy of Liskeard museum)



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Key Figures

On 16th March 1892, at the same church in which he was baptised, Joseph married Elizabeth Jane Hoar, with whom in 1894, he had a daughter, Florence Beatrice. Around 1908 he moved his family into a home designed for him by John Sansom, built in its own grounds on Varley Lane in Liskeard, named St. Malo, a monument to the stone from which he made his living, and thought to be unique in Liskeard as the only building built entirely of granite, it still survives today!

A prominent member of the Liskeard community, he was appointed a magistrate in 1917; he was also a keen bowls player, becoming the towns club Senior Vice President, he at one time let them the ground they moved to on Varley Lane, for a nominal fee.

At the age of 88, still managing director and an active partner in the business that he had played such a key role in shaping, on 21st September 1951, at St. Malo, he passed away. The following Monday, on 24th September, a private funeral service was conducted at St. Malo, before his interment at Liskeard Cemetery, which was attended by, as well as his family, many of the towns people, including the Mayor and other dignitaries, and a large number of his employees, several of whom acted as bearers.

By 1973 the business had closed, the siren calling the employees to work long silent and the Liskeard yards, once ringing to the sound of dozens of workers cleaving, cutting and fashioning the granite, no more, gone to make way for car parks, road improvements and housing.



Silver Grey Quarry, once the site of dozens of labouring quarrymen, now transformed into a picturesque playground.

The quarries, now partly flooded, still show their old industrial scars, littered with cut but unworked stones and the odd rusting mechanical remnant, the noise of workers tools and steam powered machinery replaced with bird song and occasionally music, which seems to accompany the youngsters who go to swim and tombstone there on sunny days. Ironically the quarries have now become a haven for wildlife and a picturesque place of interest for walkers to explore.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Key Figures

Emily Grace Tregoning,

raised a large portion of the funds needed to pay for the memorial. Younger sister of John Simmons Tregoning (III), born on 26th January 1873 at Llanelli, and where on 2nd March 1873, at St. Elli's Church, she was baptised. Emily, perhaps more so than many on the home front during the First World War, would come to understand the horrendous human cost of the war, she would witness first-hand the cruel and debilitating effects suffered by many of the casualties, not just from action but the atrocious conditions in which they found themselves, between May 1916 and January 1919, she clocked up some 3200 hours work as a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) with the Red Cross, with whom she would undertake a variety of duties ranging from linen repair, assistant cook, mess orderly and ward work, at a number of hospitals including Werrington, Launceston, Gold Hill, Sherborne and Highland Moors, Llandrindod Wells.

Like her brother John she was never to marry, and lived much of her life at Landue, along with several of her siblings & her widowed mother, she also owned a bungalow at Boscastle, which during the Second World War would home a family of evacuees from London, with whom she would visit and occasionally stay. She herself would move to the bungalow, Millets Meadow, in her final years, where at 92, she would pass away on 10th February 1965.

John Simmons Tregoning (III),

donated the land that the memorial was built on, and later paid for the addition of the names of the fallen of the Second World War.

Born on 16th February 1868 at Highfield, Llanelli, Wales, into a wealthy family who had made their fortune as metal merchants, ship brokers but largely in the tinsplate trade, having built an ironworks, two rolling mills and a tinhouse at Llanelli.

Baptised at St. Peter's Church, Liverpool on 22nd April 1868, he received an excellent education, boarding at Hanley Castle School in Worcestershire, before going to Harrow School between 1882 and 1886, prior to attending Trinity College, Cambridge, where he earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Masters Degree.

He went on to work as a director in the family business, farm and manage the estates, as well as serving as a Justice of the Peace for both Carmarthenshire and Cornwall.

The Tregoning family, who were originally from Cornwall, owned homes and land at several locations; Carmathenshire, Liverpool, and with the purchase of Landue, an estate containing close to 365 acres, in 1867, Cornwall once again. This was to become their main residence, and where John, who inherited it from his father in 1909, would spend much of his life, he passed away, a bachelor, at the age of 93 on 23rd October 1961.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

4. The Fallen – Those Remembered on the Memorial

Listed on the memorial, in chronological order of their deaths, are the names of twelve men who died in service during the First World War and three who died during the Second World War. For convenience their details have been included here, grouped by the war in which they served, in alphabetic order, and are:

First World War:

Samuel L. Abbott
Charles T. Budge
Leonard H. Bray
Henry Doney
William T. Hodge
Ernest Jasper
Wilfred Lane
Walter W. Lee
William Osborne
Charles Roberts
Elias Sanders
John Steed

Second World War:

Richard Haig
Percy John Rowe
John Thomas Wilton



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Samuel Lee ABBOTT

Date of birth:	16 th November 1892.
Place of birth:	Launceston, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: Alfred ABBOTT M: Mary Jane ABBOTT (née HANCOCK).
Date of baptism:	22 nd January 1899.
Place of baptism:	St. Melor Church, Linkinhorne, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	12 th
Service No. and rank:	19837, Private.
Service:	Canadian Expeditionary Force.
Unit(s) served with:	10 th Infantry Battalion, 9 th Reserve Battalion, Canadian Forestry Corp.
Date of enlistment:	24 th September 1914.
Place of enlistment:	Valcartier, Quebec, Canada.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 3½" Chest: 35" Hair: Dark brown Eyes: Grey Complexion: Dark Marks: None
Date of death:	2 nd December 1918. (Aged 26).
Place of death:	Connaught Hospital, North Camp, Aldershot, Surrey, England.
Cause of death:	Influenza (Spanish Flu).
Grave:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Medals/Awards:	1914-15 Star. British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Samuel Lee ABBOTT

Just months after Samuel's birth in 1892, his father Alfred, a blacksmith by trade, left his wife and two children to go to Montana and South Dakota U.S.A., not returning until June 1899. In 1901 the family, now with three children were living at Rillaton, Linkinhorne, but by 1910 Alfred had once again left for North America, leaving Mary, in 1911, with six of her seven children living at Wooda Bridge, Samuel being employed as a general labourer. On 28th March 1912 Samuel, also left, sailing on Cunards's 'Ascania' from Southampton to Portland, Oregon, being recorded on the passenger list as a farmer, however by 1914 on his enlistment papers he gives his trade as a blacksmith.



Samuel's headstone, of a standard CWGC design.

While on service in France in 1915 Samuel spent a month being treated for influenza before being returned to duty, the following year in September 1916 he received a gunshot wound to the face resulting in being transferred to Britain for several months of treatment. On 31st January 1917, after being released from the Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre, he was re-assigned to the 9th Reserve Battalion, at Bramshott Camp, Hampshire, whose purpose was to help fulfil the ever growing requirement for lumber at the front. While with them he once again fell ill with influenza, and nine days after being admitted to hospital he died, just three weeks after the Armistice, one of the estimated fifty million worldwide who had succumbed to Spanish Flu.



Samuel's comparatively modest grave, by a shaded path, beneath the trees at St. Briochus.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Leonard Heywood BRAY

Date of birth:	27 th April 1893.
Place of birth:	Landue Mill, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: Thomas Henry BRAY M: Emma Jane BRAY (née BROMELL).
Date of baptism:	8 th June 1893.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	2 nd
Service No. and rank:	930, Private.
Service:	British Army.
Unit(s) served with:	Royal North Devon Hussars.
Date of enlistment:	Unknown.
Place of enlistment:	Holsworthy, Devon, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: ? Chest: ? Hair: ? Eyes: ? Complexion: ? Marks: ?
Date of death:	29 th November 1915. (Aged 22).
Place of death:	Gallipoli, Turkey.
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	Green Hill Cemetery, I. A. 19, Sulva, Gallipoli, Turkey.
Medals/Awards:	1914-15 Star. British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Leonard Heywood BRAY

Leonard was one of ten children born to Thomas and Emma, he was brought up in Lezant Parish and attended Trekenner School.

In 1901 the family were still living at Landue Mill, where Leonard's father Thomas, who had once been a railway groom, was working as a cattle man on Landue Farm for J.S. Tregoning.

Leonard's father passed away in 1908, and by 1911 his mother, now a church caretaker, and six of his brothers and sisters were living at Tredown Cottages; Leonard, no longer living with the family, was working on a farm as a farm labourer, and when he enlisted was residing in Beaworthy, Devon.

At the time of his death in Gallipoli he was buried in the Chocolate Hill Cemetery, but after the armistice the Green Hill Cemetery was constructed and graves contained in several of the surrounding smaller burial grounds were moved to Green Hill, including those of Leonard and the Chocolate Hill Cemetery.

As well as the Lezant memorial Leonard is also remembered on the memorial at Ashwater, Devon.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Charles Thomas BUDGE

Date of birth:	1896.
Place of birth:	Violet Cottage, Treburley, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: Harry Bluett BUDGE M: Jane BUDGE (née LANCELLAS).
Date of baptism:	9 th April 1897.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	8 th
Service No. and rank:	20872, Private.
Service:	British Army.
Unit(s) served with:	3 rd (Training & Res.) Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. 6 th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
Date of enlistment:	27 th April 1915.
Place of enlistment:	Launceston, Cornwall, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: ? Chest: ? Hair: ? Eyes: ? Complexion: ? Marks: ?
Date of death:	19 th October 1917. (Aged 21).
Place of death:	Passchendaele Ridge, Zonnebeke, Belgium. (The Battle of Passchendaele or Third Battle of Ypres).
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	No known grave. Remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 80 to 82, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Medals/Awards:	1914-15 Star. British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Charles Thomas BUDGE

The fourth of ten children, Charles lived for most of his childhood with his family in Treburley, throughout which time his father Harry worked as a foreman of roads. He attended Trekener School and Treburley Sunday School, and later Lezant Church where he became a keen bell ringer.

On leaving school he worked and lived on a farm at Norton Barton for George Gilbard and in 1911 was living in Rezare and working as a farm labourer for John Ryall.

Charles and Elias Sanders, (also named on the war memorial), apparently walked together to Launceston, where they both volunteered for military service, Charles then reported to Bodmin before being sent for training. During 1917 his battalion was involved in numerous engagements, but by mid-October they found themselves in the rain soaked mud of Passchendaele, on the 18th they took over the frontline from the Durham Light Infantry, when overnight and during the following day the forward trenches were heavily shelled and machine gunned.

Charles parents were still living in Treburley in 1939, his mother Jane died in 1948, his father Harry in 1965.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Henry DONEY

Date of birth:	26 th or 27 th July 1892.
Place of birth:	Johnsville, Plumas County, California, U.S.A.
Parents:	F: Harry DONEY M: Bessie DONEY (née GRIFFIN).
Date of baptism:	Not known.
Place of baptism:	Not known.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	9 th
Service No. and rank:	432571, Sergeant.
Service:	Canadian Expeditionary Force.
Unit(s) served with:	49 th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Edmonton Regiment).
Date of enlistment:	9 th January 1915.
Place of enlistment:	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 5½" Chest: 36" Hair: Dark Eyes: Grey Complexion: Dark Marks: None
Date of death:	30 th October 1917. (Aged 25).
Place of death:	In the vicinity of Passchendaele, Zonnebeke, Belgium. (The Battle of Passchendaele or Third Battle of Ypres).
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	Poelcapelle British Cemetery, IX. E. 11, Langemark-Poelkapelle, Belgium.
Medals/Awards:	1914-15 Star. British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



*Lezant Parish War Memorial...
The Fallen (WWI)*

Henry DONEY



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

William Thomas HODGE

Date of birth:	21 st April 1878.
Place of birth:	Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: John HODGE M: Mary Grace HODGE (née HARRIS).
Date of baptism:	1 st March 1879.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Married,
Spouse:	Beatrice.
Position on Memorial:	1 st
Service No. and rank:	186532, Leading Seaman.
Service:	Royal Navy.
Unit(s) served with:	H.M.S. Nymph.
Date of enlistment:	7 th November 1895.
Place of enlistment:	Probably Devonport, Devon, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 5" Chest: ? Hair: Dark Brown Eyes: Grey Complexion: Dark Marks: None
Date of death:	31 st October 1915. (Aged 37).
Place of death:	A train at Motherwell Station, North Lanarkshire, Scotland.
Cause of death:	Disease.
Grave:	Ford Park Cemetery, Section GD, Grave 6, Row 17, Plymouth, Devon, England.
Medals/Awards:	1914-15 Star. British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

William Thomas HODGE

William and his family were living at Beals Mill in 1881, but by 1891 the family had moved to Folley, although William, then aged 13, was working as a servant and horse waggoner for Edmund Lyne at Beals Farm, Beals Mill at this time. In 1895 he followed in the footsteps of his father, a naval pensioner, and joined the navy, serving on numerous ships before his death in 1915.

By 1911 his father had passed away and his mother, now working as a charwoman had moved to Wooda Bridge.

Although much of the information regarding William suggest that his final ship was the H class destroyer H.M.S. Nymphe, and it is the last ship listed on his service record, there doesn't appear to be any dates of service given for it, the listing prior to it is for H.M.S. Blake, a flotilla depot ship, where the service dates look to be 2nd December 1913 to 31st October 1915!

Around the time of his death William's wife Beatrice was living at 21 Stoke Terrace, Stoke, Devonport.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Ernest Albert JASPER

Date of birth:	1892.
Place of birth:	Ruse's Mill, Larrick, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: John Barber JASPER M: Mary Maria JASPER (née CORNISH).
Date of baptism:	21 st December 1892.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	5 th
Service No. and rank:	8/4864, Private.
Service:	British Army.
Unit(s) served with:	13 th (Service) Battalion Hampshire Regiment, 34 th Training Reserve.
Date of enlistment:	Probably late 1916.
Place of enlistment:	Probably Launceston.
Physical appearance:	Height: ? Chest: ? Hair: ? Eyes: ? Complexion: ? Marks: ?
Date of death:	26 th February 1917. (Aged 24).
Place of death:	Red Cross Hospital, Littleham, Exmouth, Devon, England.
Cause of death:	Disease; broncho pneumonia aggravated by measles.
Grave:	Coads Green Wesleyan Chapelyard, North Hill, Cornwall,
Medals/Awards:	



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Ernest Albert JASPER

Ernest, the youngest of three children, spent his life at Ruse's Mill where his father John was one of the corn millers. As a child he would have attended Trekenner School. In 1901 his father passed away, but in 1911 Ernest was still living at Ruse's Mill where he was working for his uncle Thomas, the miller, as a carter, his widowed mother had moved to Trebullett. She continued to live in the parish, in 1939 she was living with her nephew John Cornish at Broomhills, she died in 1946.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Wilfred LANE

Date of birth:	23 rd March 1891 (Year of birth given as 1893 on military papers).
Place of birth:	No.4 Round Hill Cottages, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: Charles LANE M: Annie LANE (née SUTTON).
Date of baptism:	7 th May 1891.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	6 th
Service No. and rank:	829773, Private.
Service:	Canadian Expeditionary Force.
Unit(s) served with:	44 th Battalion Canadian Infantry (New Brunswick Regiment).
Date of enlistment:	13 th December 1915.
Place of enlistment:	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 2½" Chest: 35" Hair: Brown Eyes: Blue Complexion: Medium Marks: None
Date of death:	3 rd June 1917. (Aged 24).
Place of death:	La Coulotte, Avion, France.
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	La Chaudiere Military Cemetery, V.B. 13, Vimy, France.
Medals/Awards:	British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Wilfred LANE

Wilfred and his family resided at several locations within the parish, probably as a result of the availability of work for Charles, his father, who was an agricultural labourer. In 1891 they were at Round Hill Cottages, 1901 at Lane End and 1911 at Landue Mill, although in 1911 Wilfred was living away from the family at Undertown Farm, working as a waggoner for the farmer Albert John Evans. On 2nd April 1913 Wilfred sailed on the Royal Edward to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, where he probably worked as a farmer. After enlisting he arrived back in England on the S.S. Olympic on 25th September 1916, and on 25th April 1917 was posted to France with the 44th battalion, where he was immediately deployed on the frontline at Givenchy (les la Bassee). The battalion would be deployed on the frontline for much of the 39 days that Wilfred served in France. On the night of 2nd June 1917 the battalion attacked the village of La Coulette in an operation to occupy it, but the German garrison was much stronger than anticipated and with withering machine gun fire, by the following morning, had broken the attack. In the confusion Wilfred was initially posted as missing, before his death was confirmed. After the operation the battalion listed 251 men killed, missing or wounded.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Walter William LEE

Date of birth:	1896 (13 th February 1894 – date given on enlistment).
Place of birth:	Alwington, Bideford, Devon, England.
Parents:	F: Samuel LEE M: Emily LEE (née GLOVER).
Date of baptism:	Not known.
Place of baptism:	Not known.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	4 th
Service No. and rank:	K/16772, Stoker 1 st Class.
Service:	Royal Navy.
Unit(s) served with:	H.M.S. Indefatigable.
Date of enlistment:	21 st November 1912.
Place of enlistment:	Devonport, Devon, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 8" Chest: 35½" Hair: Dark brown Eyes: Brown Complexion: Dark Marks: None
Date of death:	31 st May 1916. (Aged 20).
Place of death:	H.M.S. Indefatigable, North Sea, of the coast of the Jutland Peninsula. (The Battle of Jutland – H.M.S. Indefatigable was engaged by the German battlecruiser Von der Tann and hit several times, causing a large explosion and her sinking, with the loss of all but 3 of her 1,019 crew).
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	Body not recovered. Remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 16, Plymouth, Devon, England.
Medals/Awards:	1914-15 Star. British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Walter William LEE

Samuel and Emily both originated in Devon and at the time of Walter's birth were residing in the Bideford area, but by 1901 had moved their family to Whitson Cottage, Bere Ferrers and by 1911 had arrived in Cornwall, living at Water Gate, St. Mellions. Throughout this period Samuel was employed as an agricultural labourer, and in 1911 Walter was also listed as a labourer working in a fruit garden. This life however obviously didn't suit Walter, and after enlisting in the Navy for twelve years service, when he appears to have lied about his age, he spent just over six months at the shore training establishment, H.M.S. Vivid, at Devonport, before on 17th June 1913 joining the crew of the battlecruiser H.M.S. Indefatigable.

At some time after 1911 Walter's family had been living at the Sportsman's Arms at Treburley, but had later moved to Lower Larrick. Both of Walter's parents remained in the parish until their deaths, in 1939 they were living at Undertown, where Samuel was a small holder. In 1942 Emily passed away, Samuel died in 1952, they are both buried in the Wesleyan Graveyard at Treburley.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

William OSBORNE

Date of birth:	29 th December 1896.
Place of birth:	Lawhitton, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: Thomas OSBORNE M: Emma OSBORNE (née STACEY).
Date of baptism:	10 th March 1897.
Place of baptism:	St. Michaels Church, Lawhitton, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	10 th
Service No. and rank:	240696, Private.
Service:	British Army.
Unit(s) served with:	1/5 th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
Date of enlistment:	Unknown due to a change in service numbers.
Place of enlistment:	Bodmin, Cornwall, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: ? Chest: ? Hair: ? Eyes: ? Complexion: ? Marks: ?
Date of death:	21 st March 1918. (Aged 21).
Place of death:	In the vicinity of the Somme, France. (German Spring or Ludendorff Offensive).
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	No known grave. Remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, Panel 45, Ovillers-la-Boisselle, France.
Medals/Awards:	British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

William OSBORNE

By 1901 William's carpenter father had moved his family to Saffron Hill, Lezant, but by 1911 they were at Tregada, although by this time William, one of seven children, at the age of fourteen was living and working on a farm at Trelennoe, South Petherwin for John Wills.

William served with an Infantry Pioneer unit who apart from their basic infantry training were also trained to carry out field engineering such as the construction of dugouts, command post, entanglements etc., for which they received an extra 2d a day.

The date of William's death was the first day of the German Offensive which came very close to their winning the war, and for a fortnight the British Army were under severe pressure, this chaos meant that it was not until after the 5th April that records were properly kept, resulting in the death of many of the casualties of the fortnight's offensive being recorded as happening on its first day.

In 1939 William's widowed mother and younger sister were living at Penscombe Cross.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Charles ROBERTS

Date of birth:	1886.
Place of birth:	Wooda Bridge, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	<i>F:</i> George Henry ROBERTS <i>M:</i> Henrietta A ROBERTS (née DAWE).
Date of baptism:	29 th July 1886.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	3 rd
Service No. and rank:	TS/10556, Wheeler.
Service:	British Army.
Unit(s) served with:	2 nd Depot Company, Army Service Corps.
Date of enlistment:	5 th January 1916.
Place of enlistment:	Launceston, Cornwall, England.
Physical appearance:	<i>Height:</i> 5' 5" <i>Weight:</i> 145lbs <i>Chest:</i> 37½" <i>Marks:</i> None
Date of death:	18 th April 1916. (Aged 30).
Place of death:	Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, London, England.
Cause of death:	Disease; Cerebrospinal fever (Meningitis).
Grave:	Greenwich Cemetery, Greenwich, London, England.
Medals/Awards:	



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Charles ROBERTS

In 1911 George and Henrietta's youngest son Charles was one of just four of their surviving children out of the thirteen born to them, and the second to have been given this name, the first having died before reaching his first birthday! George, a carpenter and wheelwright, and his family were living at Wooda Bridge at the time of Charles' baptism, but in 1891 they were residing at New Bridge Inn, Carthamartha, however by 1901 they were back at Wooda Bridge, where Charles was now apprentice to his father. Still living with his parents at Wooda Bridge in 1911 Charles had become a carpenter and wheelwright, and by 1916 had work references from Rowe and Maddever, and Lewis Short, all wheelwrights from the parish.

The 'TS' (Transport Special) prefix to Charles' service number indicates that he was specifically enlisted for his civilian trade, where his skills would have been in great demand in servicing and maintaining the thousands of vehicles required for work in Horse Transport.

Despite this he lasted just 95 days in post before being admitted to hospital, where in just 9 days he died, his father passed away in August of the same year, his mother in 1918.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

Elias SANDERS M.M.

Date of birth:	1894.
Place of birth:	Wooda Bridge, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	<i>F:</i> George Henry SANDERS <i>M:</i> Mary Jane SANDERS (née FOLLY).
Date of baptism:	25 th March 1895.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	7 th
Service No. and rank:	42460 (Formerly 164212), Private.
Service:	British Army.
Unit(s) served with:	Royal Field Artillery, Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra, Princes of Wales' Own).
Date of enlistment:	
Place of enlistment:	
Physical appearance:	<i>Height: ? Chest: ? Hair: ? Eyes: ? Complexion: ? Marks: ?</i>
Date of death:	20 th September 1917. (Aged 23).
Place of death:	
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	No known grave. Remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 52 to 54, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Medals/Awards:	Military Medal. British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



*Lezant Parish War Memorial...
The Fallen (WWI)*

Elias SANDERS M.M.

Elias was the fourth of nine children born to George and Mary.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

John Thomas STEED

Date of birth:	1885.
Place of birth:	Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: Thomas STEED M: Elizabeth Ann STEED (née STACEY).
Date of baptism:	21 st September 1885.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Single.
Position on Memorial:	11 th
Service No. and rank:	240943, Private.
Service:	British Army.
Unit(s) served with:	1 st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
Date of enlistment:	Unknown due to a change in service numbers.
Place of enlistment:	Launceston, Cornwall, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 6½" Chest: 38" Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Complexion: Fresh Marks: 2 scars side of neck
Date of death:	22 nd September 1918. (Aged 32).
Place of death:	Ytes, France.
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	No known grave. Remembered on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Panel 6, Haucourt, France.
Medals/Awards:	British War Medal 1914-20. Victory Medal 1914-19.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWI)

John Thomas STEED

John's parents Thomas and Elizabeth lived at various places within the parish with their four sons, of whom John was the eldest. In 1891 they were living in Trekenner, where Thomas was working as an agricultural labourer, in 1901 the family were still there but John was living at Lezant Glebe, where he was working for the farmer Richard Martyn. By 1911 he was again living with the family at Penglass, where he, his father and brother were farming.

At some point after enlisting John was transferred to the 1st Battalion D.C.L.I., on 20th September they moved out of billets in Ytes and relieved the 14th Royal Warwicks in the frontline, John was killed in action on the following day, during a period from the 20th to the 25th described in the Regimental History as being 'quiet and uneventful'!

Shortly after this the British offensive that broke the Hindenburg Line and led to final victory began.

John's parents remained in the parish, in 1939 they were residing at Wooda Bridge, Thomas dying in 1941, Elizabeth in 1945, they are both buried at Lezant Parish Church.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

Date of birth:	11 th August 1901.
Place of birth:	48, Wells Street, Camberwell, London, England.
Parents:	F: Richard BOWDEN M: Phoebe HAIG (née ROE).
Date of baptism:	Not known.
Place of baptism:	Not known.
Marital status:	Married, 1938, Launceston, Cornwall, England.
Spouse:	Amy ROBERTS.
Position on Memorial:	13 th
Service No. and rank:	D/K 65336, Leading Stoker.
Service:	Royal Navy.
Unit(s) served with:	H.M.S. Cochrane II, H.M. Fleet Tender C.
Date of enlistment:	17 th November 1924.
Place of enlistment:	Devonport, Devon, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 6½" Chest: 38" Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Complexion: Fresh Marks: 2 scars side of neck
Date of death:	4 th June 1941. (Aged 39).
Place of death:	H.M. Fleet Tender C, North Sea, Approx. 40NM ESE of Grimsby, Lincolnshire.
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	Body not recovered. Remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 52, Column 2, Plymouth, Devon, England.
Medals/Awards:	1939-45 Star. Atlantic Star. War Medal 1939-45.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

Richards's journey began on Sunday, 11th August 1901, in Camberwell, South London, yet the exact details of his birth & his family have proven to be somewhat elusive.

A certain amount of information regarding this has been published by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, (CWGC), however further research suggest that at least part of the provided information may be inaccurate! The details used by the CWGC were provided by Richard's widow, Amy, who gave his father as Robert Haig, and his mother as unknown. Both pieces of information appear to be wrong, whether this was deliberate on Amy's part, or she didn't know the truth, I can't say; perhaps Richard had forgotten, or wished to distance himself from his mother, whatever the case I have yet to ascertain the full truth surrounding exactly what the circumstances were.

What does seem to be at least part of the story is that he was the son of Phoebe Haig, (née Roe), born in Birmingham, she arrived in London as a child, when her family moved there, she was around 30 years of age at the time of Richards birth.

At 18 Phoebe married the 22 year old Thomas Haig, a London born Whitesmith, at All Saints Church in Newington, Surrey on 15th July 1888.

They lived for several years at 3, Bronte Place, Camberwell, and during their time there Phoebe gave birth to seven children; Thomas in 1888, James Albert in 1889, John Frederick in 1891, Phoebe in 1892, Minnie in 1894, Florrie in 1895 and finally William Edwin in 1896.

Life however was hardly rosy for the family, and it seems that at various times, most if not all of the children, and Phoebe herself, spent periods in the workhouse or similar institutions. In August 1896 seven year old James, and eight year old Thomas were admitted into the residential Brighton Road Industrial School in Sutton, an establishment created for 'the maintenance, education and industrial training of the pauper children'.

A couple of months later, in October, poverty and desperation would force the pregnant Phoebe to enter the Constance Road Workhouse, in Camberwell, where it seems likely that she gave birth to William. She and the infant were discharged in late January 1897, but William would die within a few months of this.

It appears that Thomas and James spent prolonged spells in these institutions. Thomas eventually emigrated to Canada, where he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force during World War One, and in 1917, less than a month after being deployed in France with the 44th Battalion Canadian Infantry, was seriously wounded at Vimy Ridge during the 2nd Battle of Arras, which resulted in the loss of his left leg. He would return to Canada, where he remained until his death in 1945. James remained in England, and like his brother Thomas also enlisted for service during the war, however he was less fortunate, he lost his life while serving with the Machine Gun Corp, in the early spring of 1918 during the 3rd Battle of Arras.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

In the census of March 1901, prior to the birth of Richard, Phoebe now listed as a widow, and working as a laundress, was living at 48, Harling Street in Camberwell, with just two of her children, Thomas and Minnie. In August of that year she would give birth to Richard at 48, Wells Street in Camberwell, despite the fact that his birth was registered under the name of Richard Bowden, and his mother, who registered the birth, gave her own name as Bowden; there appears to be no evidence to show that she was ever married to the registered father, Richard Bowden, perhaps this subterfuge was carried out to hide Richard's illegitimacy. In fact there are further records that suggest Phoebe adopted other surnames, including Allen, the reason being not altogether clear. I have been unable to determine exactly when Richard began to be known as Haig.

Supporting the family must have been growing increasingly difficult, and by 1906 things came to a head; they were living at 306, East Street, Walworth, Phoebe working as an Ironer, when they were turned out of their home for non-payment of rent. The police took them to the workhouse, where on the 15th November Phoebe 'Allen' together with Minnie and Richard Haig were admitted into the Westmoreland Road Workhouse in Southwark as destitute, it was noted that the children were illegitimate; they were discharged at Phoebe's request on the 27th, however things must have been grave, as on the 29th they were admitted into the Mint Street Workhouse in Southwark, before being discharged on 4th December, after which they were forced to sleep in a public wash house.

It seems that Phoebe by this time was no longer capable of properly caring or providing for her family; and so when again the police found Richard wandering the streets, he was, on 14th December 1906, taken to Lambeth Police Court, where it was ordered that he should be detained until the age of 16; he was five years and four months old. The court noted Richard's illegitimacy, although included a father's name as 'Thomas, (Dead)', it also recorded Phoebe's occupation as Laundress, and characterised her as 'indifferent', stating that the parents were 'addicted to alcohol'.

Richard was initially sent to the Home for Little Boys, 40, Kings Road, Clapham Park, Balham, an Industrial School for younger boys, established in November 1903, with accommodation for 30 boys under the age of eight. He would remain there until 26th October 1908, when at the age of seven years and two months he was transferred to Mayford Industrial School (Reformatory For Boys), Mayford, Woking, where he would remain for over seven years, (these industrial schools were first set up in the mid 1800's, with a remit to provide training and residential care for destitute and vagrant children).

Despite his years at the Home for Little Boys, Mayford must have come as quite a shock to Richard, if nothing else just the scale of it must have been daunting; there was accommodation for one hundred and eighty children, a swimming bath, tailors, shoemaking and carpentry classes, a student's brass band and a farm with cows, horses, pigs and poultry. Agricultural work was a key component of the training, and there was also military training, to enable potential employment by the services.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

On 11th December 1915 a Cornish farmer, John Cory Sandercock, paid £12 for Richards release on licence, and so Richard at the age of fourteen years and four months made his first trip to Cornwall, and become a farm labourer at Tresoke Farm, Davidstow. In late 1921 John Sandercock died, however by then Richard had already moved on, although geographically not far, and was employed as a Horseman at Thomas Dinnis Gynn's nearby Tremblary Farm.

Whether the work just dried up, or Richard became disenchanted with it, on 17th November 1924 he enlisted for 12 years' service with the Royal Navy, starting his training at HMS Vivid II, a shore establishment for the training of Stokers and Engine Room Artificers in Devonport. On 25th May 1925, with the rank of Stoker 2nd Class, he was assigned to his first ship, HMS Emperor of India, a 190 metres long Iron Duke-class battleship, serving in the Mediterranean, and before the end of his yearlong tour he was promoted to Stoker 1st Class.

After a brief period back at HMS Vivid II, on 12th July 1926, he began service aboard the 195 metre long super-dreadnought HMS Malaya, one of five Queen Elizabeth-class battleships, it had been heavily involved in the Battle of Jutland in 1916, where it suffered major damage and high crew casualties. Just over a year later on 21st September 1927 Richard would be transferred onto its sister ship, HMS Queen Elizabeth, the lead ship of her class, which was just completing a refit at Portsmouth. At the beginning of 1928 she would steam to the Mediterranean to take up her role as flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet, visiting Istanbul later in the year, before returning to Portsmouth for a further overhaul. In February 1929 he would serve briefly on yet another Queen Elizabeth-class battleship, HMS Valiant, before, after a few months ashore, on 7th June 1929 joining the crew of the Battlecruiser HMS Renown, on which he would serve until September 1931, during which time Renown was acting as the flagship for the Atlantic Fleets Battlecruiser Squadron while HMS Hood was undergoing a refit.

Having spent five years on some of the biggest vessels in the fleet, all with compliments of a 1000 or more men, his next posting was somewhat of a change, when on 9th December he joined the crew of HMS Daffodil, an Acacia-class sloop built for minesweeping, now getting towards the end of its working life, it was just 76.2 meters long with a compliment of 77 men, he would remain part of her crew until October 1934.

During the next six months he spent some time at HMS Defiance, an old wooden ship's hull, moored near Saltash, that was part of the Navy Torpedo School, it was not until 29th April 1935 he was assigned as Stoker 1st Class to the Revenge class battleship HMS Royal Sovereign, which took part in King George V's Silver Jubilee Fleet Review in the August of that year, before taking up the role of Rear Admiral Charles Ramsey's flagship with the 2nd Battle Squadron of the Atlantic Fleet.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

Having returned to Portsmouth in January 1936, he re-joined the ship on 16th April as Acting Leading Stoker, he would remain with her until 11th September, then spend the next couple of months ashore, working-of the last days of his twelve years, on 29th November he was enrolled into the Royal Fleet Reserve, and left the Navy.

Nothing has come to light on what he did in the preceding years, other than in early 1938 Richard married the thirty year old Amy Roberts in the Launceston District, it is unclear how or when he met her, she was of farming stock, born in Stoke Climsland, her early years were spent at Poundfield, Stoke Climsland on her father, Francis's farm, who later together with Amy and the rest of his family would move to Frankaborough Farm near Broadwoodwidge.

It maybe that at some point Richard stayed with Amy's parents, and perhaps worked for her father.

There was a couple with matching names that were listed as living in Hendon on a 1939 electoral register, however, whatever the situation, with the threat of war looming across Europe, as a reservist Richard was recalled to the Navy, and was back in Devonport with the rank of Leading Stoker by the 26th August 1939, just a week before Britain declared war on Germany. In that September Amy was living with her parents, Francis & Ellen, and other family members, at Downhouse, Lezant, where she was listed as a boarder.

Richard was soon assigned to a ship, and would join the crew of Fleet Tender A, on 15th November 1939, and in doing so would become part of a peculiar deception plan, which had originated at the admiralty during the First World War, Winston Churchill being credited as its architect. Now with Churchill back as First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Royal Navy's assets being severely stretched, the scheme had been swiftly resurrected. The plan was simple; merchant ships would be converted and dressed with wood and canvas additions to their bows, sterns and superstructures and painted to look like warships, they would then be deployed to deceive and confuse the enemy as to the whereabouts of the fleet.

Three merchant ships procured by the admiralty were selected for the deception, and sailed to Harland and Wolff's Belfast shipyard for conversion, for security they would be designated as Fleet Tenders; the SS Pakeha, Fleet Tender A, was converted to look like HMS Revenge, a Revenge-class super-dreadnought battleship, SS Waimana, Fleet Tender B, would masquerade as HMS Resolution, a sister ship of HMS Revenge, and thirdly SS Mamari, Fleet Tender C, would take on the guise of the Aircraft Carrier HMS Hermes.

In late November 1939 with the conversion work complete the 5/6 scale replicas escorted by four destroyers, and designated fleet W, were sailed around Scotland to the Firth of Forth, and the Naval Base, (Cochrane II), at Rosyth on Scotland's eastern coast.

Richard on Fleet Tender A, along with all of the stokers in the little fleet had a particularly hard an arduous task, the modifications, which had also included filling their holds with empty barrels to provide extra buoyancy in the event of



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

anticipated attacks, had made the decoys difficult to steer and handle, slowing their progress and extending their journey time, the three vessels were also coal burning, unlike the majority of the Navy's oil fuelled fleet, and therefore needed a constant supply of coal to be maintained in their bunkers to feed the boilers, requiring the stokers to work in two watches to maintain the levels needed, this resulted in them being awarded three tots rather than the regulation one tot of rum a day.

The Fleet Tender's deployment caused some confusion to enemy intelligence and it is known that rumours reached them regarding the appearance of these ships at various locations, however, whilst in the Firth of Forth the decoys did not appear to have any great impact, or provoke any particular enemy reaction, and so they were moved to the base at Lyness on Orkney, (HMS Proserpine), and the waters of Scapa Flow. Richard had by this time had been assigned as Leading Stoker to Fleet Tender C, which he joined on 7th June 1940. The outcome seems to have been much the same as the first deployment; the enemy seemed to show no great interest in them, and judging by the story of a Heinkel III, that having overflown the 'Resolution', waggled its wings, ignoring the supposed battleship and attacked a small steamer, the Germans possibly suspected that all was not as it seemed.

However successful the Admiralty felt this venture had been, during a vicious gale in August 1940, the Fleet Tenders dragged their anchors and narrowly avoided running aground, highlighting just how unstable & difficult to handle these converted craft were; this incident and the increasing need for merchant ships helped prompt the decision to return them to Rosyth, and so by the 18th August both the ships, and Richard, were once again stationed at HMS Cochrane II, where they would remain while awaiting their re-conversion back to merchantmen.

By early June 1941 Fleet Tender C, together with several escort vessels, was on route from Rosyth to Chatham for re-conversion, heading south along the east coast, both she and Richard were unwittingly approaching the end of what would prove to be their final voyage.

On 2nd June, a patrol of Luftwaffe Küstenflieger, (German Air Force Coastal Flying Group), Junkers Ju-88 medium bombers, from I./Ku.Fl.Gr. 506, (1st Squadron 506 Coastal Flying Group), operating out of the Luftwaffe's island airfield at Westerland, Sylt, Germany, close to the Danish border, had carried out several attacks on allied shipping, damaging the RFA Thorpebay off the Northumberland coast and Sinking the cargo ship SS Beaumanoir off the Yorkshire coast; during these operations they reported the location of a large ship that they had spotted, which was identified as either HMS Indomitable or Hermes, it was in fact Fleet Tender C, a darkly ironic turn of events considering its operational history.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG



A Junkers Ju 88 bomber, although similar to the aircraft that spotted the 'Hermes', this particular example, (an exhibit at the RAF Museum, Cosford, Shropshire), constructed in 1942, was converted to the role of night fighter in 1943.

The Luftwaffe were now racing to intercept the carrier, with no torpedoes available to arm the aircraft at Westerland, three crews were hastily sent to Grossenbrode on Germany's Baltic coast, where trialling aircraft launched torpedoes was ongoing, and three recently modified Heinkel He 111 medium bombers, armed with torpedoes, were duly collected, and set off in search of their target; off the Wash, in the darkness, late on the night of the 2nd, they caught up with her and began their attack. Following the raid the aircraft returned to Grossenbrode, where Leutnant zur See, (Pilot Officer), Friedrich Michael, was credited with two torpedo hits and damaging the carrier, and a jubilant command sent congratulatory messages to the unit, and the story was reported by the state propaganda organisation, however it was not entirely as it was portrayed.

As the Heinkel's launched their attack, the crew of Fleet Tender C began making evasive manoeuvres, during which in the shallow waters that she was now passing through, she collided with, and became stuck on, the submerged wreckage of the oil tanker SS Ahamo, which had been sunk by a mine on the 8th April of that year. Unable to extricate herself from the wreck, a distress call was made for help. The situation as to whether either of the torpedoes actually struck or caused damage to the 'Hermes' is confused, the immediate issue seems to have been her inability to free herself from the Ahamo, however what cannot be denied is that as a direct consequence of the attack the would-be carrier was immobilised.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

At around 04:30 on the morning of the 3rd, in response to the distress calls, the rescue tug Sabine, based at Immingham on the Humber Estuary, was despatched to assist the casualty, on arriving on scene they were surprised to find what appeared to be an aircraft carrier that had been navigating along the east coast through what, at the time, was considered one of the most dangerous stretches of water in the world, commonly referred to as E Boat Alley, due to the frequent, deadly and all too often, successful attacks by German E Boats along this route.

Having been acquainted with the facts, the Sabine set to work rigging a towing hawser to the 'Hermes', and waited for high water as at low water sections of the Ahamo's hull were above the surface, once the conditions were right they began their tow, the Sabine pulling full ahead and the 'Hermes' at full astern, in an attempt to reverse her of the wreck, but even with both vessels at full power they could not free her. Although monitored and protected by several Royal Navy sloops and motor launches, and with continuous air cover, this must have been an extremely nerve-racking time for Richard and his colleagues, toiling below decks to keep the boilers fed.

A second attempt to re-float her was organised for high tide early on the 4th; although this time it would include the additional assistance of United Towing Company's tug Diversion, sent from Yarmouth; with the Sabine and Diversion alongside the 'Hermes', they could only wait for the tide to rise, however at about 01:30 on the morning of the 4th, before any further rescue attempts could be made, the roar of engines and the shattering sound of exploding torpedoes dramatically announced their discovery by a flotilla of German S Boats, (S or Schnellboots, "fast boats", were small surface craft, often referred to as E Boats by the British, armed with several light canons and machine guns, as well as two torpedo tubes; they were quick, agile and extremely potent).

In truth, despite the known dangers of 'E-Boat Alley', the 'Hermes' had been slightly unlucky; due to continuing losses in that area, the Küstenflieger had been ordered to only fly sorties at night or on heavily clouded days, whilst the number of operational Kriegsmarine S-Boat flotillas, (German Navy Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons), patrolling the Channel, had in late May 1941, been reduced from four to one, when the majority were re-deployed in preparation for Hitler's planned invasion of Russia, leaving only the 4th S-Flotilla with five S-Boats, to continue their patrols of the Channel from their base at Rotterdam.



German postage stamp depicting a S128 Schnellboot, from a set of 13 issued in 1944 to commemorate Armed Forces and Heroes Day.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG

Having been notified by the carrier's presence by the Luftwaffe, 4th S-Flotilla despatched four boats, S19, S20, S22 and S24, to search for and destroy the stricken vessel. As soon as they came across it they were engaged by several Royal Navy vessels, but despite this they managed to mount an attack on their target, launching three torpedoes, one from the S22, commanded by Leutnant zur See Karl-Ehrhard Karcher, (a highly experienced and by the end of the war highly decorated officer), and two from the S24, commanded by Oberleutnant zur See Frhr. von Mirbach, all of which supposedly hit their target, although a eyewitness serving on the tug Sabine recalled that the wreckage of the Ahamo was also damaged, rupturing some of her tanks and spilling fuel oil into the surrounding sea. During the attack the Sabine slipped her towing gear and launched her boats to rescue the crew of the foundering 'Hermes', picking up around forty survivors; the S-Boats, having successfully executed their mission, retired back to their Rotterdam base, slipping away back into the darkness, behind a smokescreen.

There appears by some miracle, to have only been two fatalities during this action, Richard Haig and Daniel Hayes. One can only surmise that Richard, in the role of Leading Stoker, and his colleague Daniel, a Stoker 1st Class, were at their posts at the time of the raid, and either caught by the blast of a torpedo impact, or trapped below decks when the 'Hermes' sank: (both of the men are commemorated by the CWGC, who for a long time had only listed their unit or ship as Cochrane II, to a certain extent masking the true nature of their deaths, and in general information about the sinking widely suggested that there had been no casualties; in 2021, provided with the evidence of my research, the CWGC amended the entries for both men to include HM Fleet Tender C). Many of the survivors were covered in fuel oil when brought aboard the Sabine, where they were cleaned off with paraffin and treated to rum, before being landed near Grimsby. The Sabine itself returned to the wreck site a few days later, where they salvaged material from the ship, much of its superstructure still being above the water. The remains were eventually targeted by both the Royal Navy and RAF, levelling the superstructure that was still visible, in order to deny the enemy a potential hiding place.

Whatever the exact circumstances of Richard and Daniels deaths in the incident, which still seems to be the subject of both confusing and contradictory reports, as neither of their bodies were recovered and they were lost at sea, their names were included on Naval War Memorials.



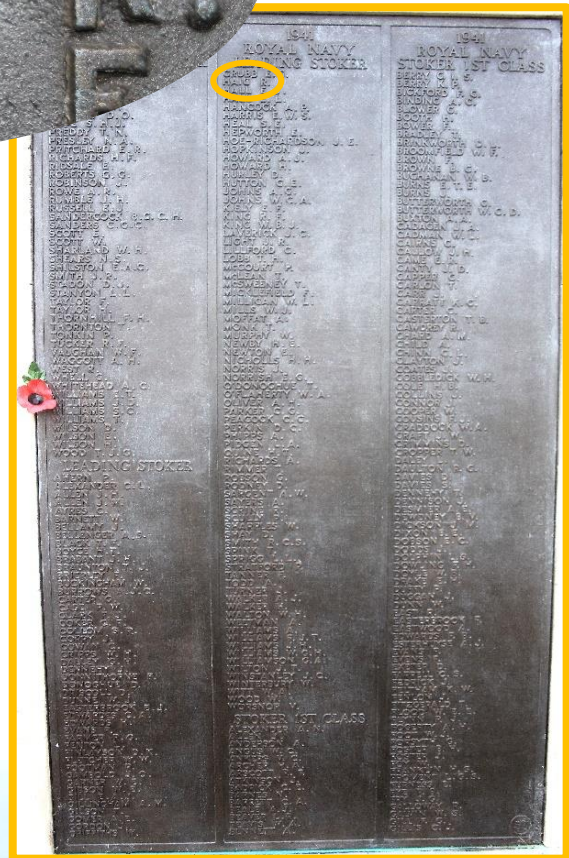
Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG



Three Naval memorials had been erected after the First World War at Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth, these were extended after the Second World War in order to remember those seaman lost during the conflict, with no known graves.

Daniel is remembered on the Chatham memorial, whilst Richards name appears on the Plymouth memorial, which stands above Plymouth Sound, on Plymouth Hoe.



Part of the Second World War extension of the Plymouth Naval Memorial; Richard, along with nearly 16,000 others, is commemorated on one of numerous bronze plaques that line the walls. His name appears on plaque 52, column two, as pictured above.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Richard HAIG



A Naval contingent marching past the Plymouth Naval Memorial during the 2017 Remembrance Sunday Parade.

In March 1953, Amy, Richard's widow, was issued with his three service medals, and in the May of the following year HRH Princess Margaret unveiled the newly completed World War Two extension of the Plymouth Naval Memorial; whether Amy attended, or ever visited the memorial is unknown.

Amy would outlive Richard by some 64 years, at the time of his death she was still living in Lezant, but it is difficult to determine how long she remained there; in her later years she was residing in Paignton, Devon, where she passed away on 11th September 2005, at the age of 96; she had never remarried.





Lezant Parish War Memorial... The Fallen (WWII)

Percy John ROWE

Date of birth:	16 th June 1910.
Place of birth:	Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Parents:	F: Edward ROWE M: Edith Harriet ROWE (née DAW).
Date of baptism:	21 st September 1885.
Place of baptism:	St. Briochus Church, Lezant, Cornwall, England.
Marital status:	Married, 1936, Chard, Somerset, England.
Spouse:	Joan DICKER.
Position on Memorial:	15 th
Service No. and rank:	JX 128324, Able Seaman.
Service:	Royal Navy.
Unit(s) served with:	H.M.S. Prince of Wales.
Date of enlistment:	16 th June 1928.
Place of enlistment:	Devonport, Devon, England.
Physical appearance:	Height: 5' 7" Chest: 36½" Hair: Dark brown Eyes: Brown Complexion: Fresh
Date of death:	10 th December 1941. (Aged 31).
Place of death:	H.M.S. Prince of Wales, South China Sea, 61NM east of Kuantan, Malaysia.
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	Body not recovered. Remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 48, Column 2, Plymouth, Devon, England.
Medals/Awards:	1939-45 Star. Atlantic Star. Pacific Star. War Medal 1939-45.



*Lezant Parish War Memorial...
The Fallen (WWII)*

Percy John ROWE



*Lezant Parish War Memorial...
The Fallen (WWII)*

John Thomas WILTON

Date of birth:	29 th July 1919.
Place of birth:	Diptford, Devon, England.
Parents:	F: Unknown M: Letitia May HICKS (née PALMER).
Date of baptism:	Not known.
Place of baptism:	Not known.
Marital status	Single.
Position on Memorial:	14 th
Service No. and rank:	D/KX 92932, Leading Stoker.
Service:	Royal Navy.
Unit(s) served with:	H.M.S. Neptune.
Date of enlistment:	Unknown.
Place of enlistment:	Unknown.
Physical appearance:	Height: ? Chest: ? Hair: ? Eyes: ? Complexion: ? Marks: ?
Date of death:	19 th December 1941. (Aged 32).
Place of death:	H.M.S. Neptune, Mediterranean Sea of the coast of Tripoli, Libya.
Cause of death:	Killed in action.
Grave:	Body not recovered. Remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, Panel 52, Column 2, Plymouth, Devon, England.
Medals/Awards:	1939-45 Star. Atlantic Star. Africa Star. War Medal 1939-45.



*Lezant Parish War Memorial...
The Fallen (WWII)*

John Thomas WILTON



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Roll of Honour

5. Lezant Parish Roll of Honour

This is a list of men and women who saw service during the First World War, and who were either born in the parish, or were residing in the parish around the time of their service.

Ernest BRAWN

(b.9th September 1881 – d.20th April 1949)
232131, Sapper, Signal Company, Royal Engineers.
Born and lived in Trekenner.

Stanley George BRAY

(b.1896 – d.15th August 1941)
3781 (3365), Trooper, 1st Life Guards Battalion, Guards Machine Gun Regiment, Household Cavalry.
Born in Lezant, lived at Roundhill and Landue Barton, Lezant.

Charles BUDGE

(b.20th January 1883 – d.?)
30572, Stoker Petty Officer, Royal Navy.
Born in Lezant.

Francis Henry COLE

(b.? – d.?)
33336 (24806), Stoker Petty Officer, Royal Navy.
Lived in Bottonett, Lezant.

Charlie COLWILL

(b.7th May 1883 – d.31st May 1916)
308535, Stoker 1st Class, H.M.S. Indefatigable, Royal Navy.
Born in Lezant.

Arthur Spurr Hugh DE ST PAER

(b.26th August 1895 – d.27th November 1976)

Born at Trekenner School.

William Walter EDWARDS

(b.15th October 1886 – d.23rd November 1942)
26192, Private, 3rd Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
Lived at Trekenner School.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Roll of Honour

James GREGORY

(b.1877 - d.?)
274057 (WR26359), Pioneer, Royal Engineers.
Born in Lezant, lived in Landue Barton.

Frederick JENKIN

(b.1880 - d.?)
307360, Private, 15th Battalion. Tank Corps, also
28886, Sapper, Royal Engineers.
Lived in Trekenner.

John MORRISH

(b.1896 - d.24th April 1917)
15668, Private, 10th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment.
Born in Lezant.

Richard PEARCE

(b.16th November 1889 - d.?)
230855 (40583), Sapper, 89th Field Company, Royal Engineers also
6th East Yorkshire Regiment.
Lived in Trebullett.

Lewis George SHORT

(b.31st August 1895 - d.1980)
27177, Private, Hampshire Regiment.
Born in Lezant.

William Harold TICKELL

(b.26th June 1891 - d.1985)
26566, Private, 10th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.
Lived in Rezare.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Description

6. Description of the Monument



Lezant War Memorial within its hedged enclosure.

Situated at OS grid reference SX346797, the memorial is comprised of three main sections, the base being formed by a low, square, three stepped platform, the lower step of smoothed finished solid concrete on which sits two further steps of rough-hewn grey granite, the first being constructed of four rectangular blocks, the two larger of which form the front and back of the step, and present a single joint-less slab on those faces, the sides incorporate the two shorter blocks, which are butt joined between the blocks forming the front and back, the top step is formed by a single square slab.

Upon this sits a plinth of the same rough-hewn granite, roughly carved from a single cube, tapering slightly towards the top, where the transition between the sides and the top has been softened with a rudimentary and large radius fillet, which is more prominent on the sides.



Front face of the Memorials base and plinth, showing the inset inscription panel.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Description

On the front face, framed by a rough-hewn border is an deeply inset panel worked to a smoother finish, which contains an inscription written in black-painted, raised metal lettering, all in upper case, which includes a list of the fallen, all in the same size lettering, and a phrase from the New Testament of the Bible (John 15:13), which is slightly smaller. The font is the same throughout, although the 1939-1945 additions are not quite a perfect match, being a slightly bolder type face:

1915.

WILLIAM T. HODGE. H.M.S. NYMPH.
LEONARD H. BRAY. N. DEVON HUSSARS.

1916.

CHARLES ROBERTS. R.A.S.C.
WALTER W. LEE. H.M.S. INDEFATIGABLE.

1917.

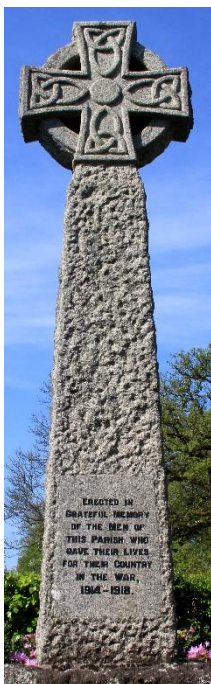
ERNEST JASPER. 34TH TRAINING RES.
WILFRED LANE. 44TH CANADIAN BN.
ELIAS SANDERS. M.M. 9TH YORKS.
CHARLES T. BUDGE. 1/6TH D.C.L.I.
HENRY DONEY. 49TH CANADIAN BN.

1918.

WILLIAM OSBORNE. 1/5TH D.C.L.I.
JOHN STEED. 1/5TH D.C.L.I.
SAMUEL L. ABBOTT CAN. FORESTRY CORPS.
GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT
A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.

1939-1945.

RICHARD HAIG. FLEET TENDER. C.
JOHN T. WILTON. H.M.S. NEPTUNE
PERCY J. ROWE. H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES.



On the plinth rests a Celtic cross, again hewn from a single piece of matching granite, consisting of a rectangular section shaft, on which, close to its base on the front face is a smooth worked panel displaying a dedication in uppercase lettering matching the other inscriptions:

ERECTED IN
GRATEFUL MEMORY
OF THE MEN OF
THIS PARISH WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE WAR,
1914 - 1918.

The shafts wider front and back faces taper towards the top and all four sides are bevelled at the intersection with the head, a cross pattée, with gently curved flared arms, which break through, and extend beyond a nimbus, which is narrower than the arms of the cross.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Description

The cross and the nimbus are rough-hewn apart from the inner surfaces of the arms and the nimbus which are smooth, together with the front faces; the nimbus carved with a simple ovolo edge, while the cross has a border around the arms edges, each of which contain a simple Celtic trinity knot, pointing inwards to a disc at the intersection of the arms, carved in deep relief.



Celtic cross showing the carved front face and rough-hewn finished back face.

The monument, its front facing roughly north east, is centrally placed in a semi-elliptical enclosure surrounded by a low Cornish hedge topped with a beech hedge, the entrance, immediately opposite the memorial's front face,



Kissing Gate with rhododendrons in the background.

at the apex of the ellipse, is via a simple black painted, iron railing kissing gate, and two concrete steps down to the level of the grassed area that surrounds the monument. This is usually kept mown around the front and sides of the memorial, but allowed to grow longer and promote the growth of wildflowers behind it. Also lining the space at the back of the enclosure, along the base of the semi-ellipse are several pale purple flowering rhododendrons.



The memorial from Landue Bridge.



Lezant Parish War Memorial... Sources

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Lezant Parish War Memorial