

Have you ever really looked at the WWI memorial in Big School? For instance, had you noticed how many names there are? The answer is 105. Do you ever think of what they might have been like - the boys attached to those names?





This is the story of just a few of them



**They once sat where
we sit, walked the
school grounds where
we walk and wanted
to live and fulfil their
ambitions like we do.
They gave up their
lives for us.**

Some were
acknowledged
heroes like

Frank
Rhodes
Armitage
DSO



He was a talented sportsman, especially golf, a very gifted student and gained a scholarship to Cambridge University. He joined the medical corps of the Royal Field Artillery and was killed when a bomb hit his dug-out. He was 34 years old and he had helped many others to survive.



Edward Christian lived in Church Road in Bradmore. He was extremely gifted and came to the school when he was 6 years old. He was good at most things but he ran the 100 yards race in 10.5 seconds, played First XI cricket and edited the Wulfrunian magazine. He gained a scholarship to Oxford but never took up his place because he signed up to join the army. He was 21 years old when he died. He is buried in a communal cemetery in France

Arnold Duddell lived in Tettenhall. He wanted to be a teacher but WWI intervened and in 1916 he was sent to France to fight. During the fighting his commanding officer was injured and he took command of the company. He and an orderly brought in 15 prisoners from a German dug-out. At the age of 20 he was shot in the chest and died on the way to the field hospital. He is buried in Belgium.



Kervin (yes, Kervin) Furniss was born and brought up at Birches Farm in Codsall. He was a likeable boy, very serious and gentle. Fighting must have gone against his nature. He was obviously a very quick learner because he learned to fly a plane and became a pilot with the 23rd squadron. He was the youngest in the squad and became machine gun officer. His plane was shot down over Germany and he was taken prisoner. He was not treated for his wounds and he died at the age of 19 years.





Leonard Lawson

Leonard lived just around the corner from school in Merridale Road. He was a very good footballer. He might even have been able to see his house from the football pitch. He did not have a dad but maybe his mum would walk to the school and cheer him on during matches. He enlisted as soon as war was declared. In 1915 he was reported missing, his body was never found. He was an only child.

Robert Phipps lived at a house called 'The Hollies' in Stockwell End, Tettenhall. He went into the army as an officer and was quickly made captain. During his last battle he was shot in the wrist but insisted on carrying on. His body was not found straight away but his actions had been so brave that he was mentioned in dispatches. He was only 19.



Norman Wilkes



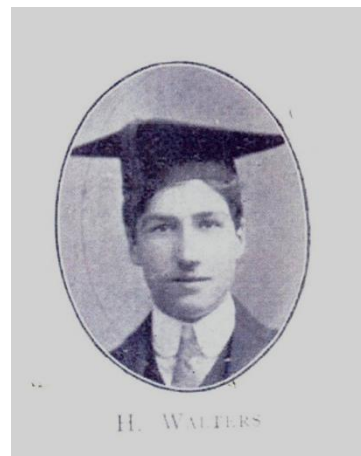
Norman was the son of the vicar of St. Peter's Church in Wolverhampton. He wanted to make cars and went to work at the famous Sunbeam factory . He was killed in 1918 and buried on his 21st birthday. He isn't on his own. He is buried next to William Barnett, another old boy of the school who died in the same battle.

**John
Groves**



**William
Groves**

**Harold
Thorne**

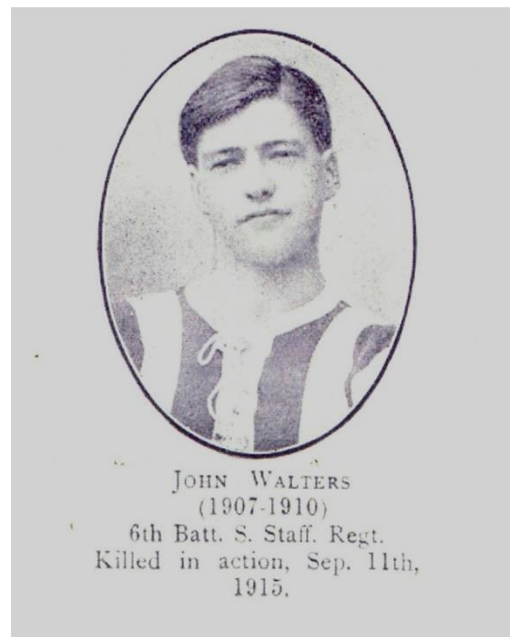
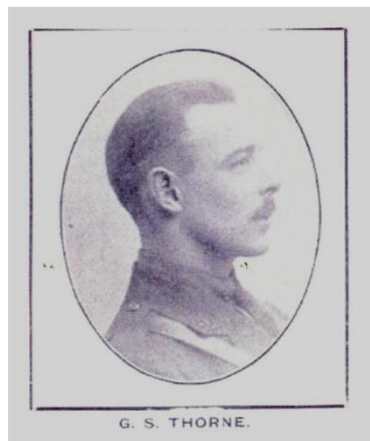


**Herbert
Walters**

Robert Hoole

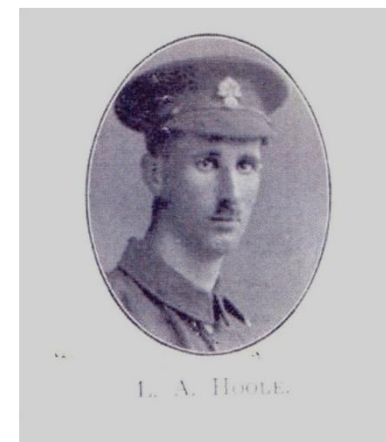


Guy Thorne



John Walters

Leonard Hoole



Four sets of brothers are on the memorial. Had you noticed?

Harold and Guy Thorne were killed within a month of each other.

John and William Groves lived at Parkdale, just down the road in Tettenhall.

The Hoole brothers were both killed at the Battle of the Somme.

John and Herbert Walters lived in Oaklands Road, just off Merridale Road. Both of these boys became teachers when they left school. John died first.

Their parents also gave everything they had



Finally



This is not a celebration of war.

It is small part of our heritage at this school. An acknowledgement of what these young men suffered. Don't walk past this wall covered with names without thinking of these same young men sitting in Big School, playing football on Moreton's Piece and singing the school song.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM