

EXETER FOOTBALL CLUB  
(RUGBY UNION)



THE FIRST WORLD WAR FALLEN





## Captain George Howard Bickley

Machine Gun Corps

Died 4 October 1917 Age 25

Killed in action while leading his company in Flanders



George Bickley was the youngest of four brothers who lived at Lyme Regis. A window in the church of St. Michael the Archangel there is dedicated to his memory.



*Photo: Peter J Barrett*

George Bickley was educated at St. Edward's School, Oxford, and Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he studied for the medical profession. Whilst at Cambridge he made occasional appearances for the University XV. He was also a member of the Harlequins club. Having made his debut for Exeter at the end of December 1911, he was, two weeks later, selected by both Exeter and Harlequins. He chose to play for Exeter with whom he was an automatic choice, when on vacation, for the next three seasons.. During his time with Exeter he made at least 26 appearances including the last six games played by the club at the end of the 1913-4 season. In that last season he also appeared four times for Devon in County Championship matches. He played either as a speedy wing or an elusive centre.



## **Serjeant Harry John Carrington**

Middlesex Regiment

Died 19 July 1918 Age 26

Died in in a Station Hospital in India from bomb wounds received from a misfiring shell.

Harry Carrington played for St. Luke's College and assisted Exeter. During the 1913-1914 season, having moved to London, he made an appearance for the Shepherds Bush soccer team in the Isthmian League before playing rugby for the Wasps club.



## **Rifleman James Henry Cook**

King's Royal Rifle Corps

Died 3 July 1915 Age 28

Killed by bomb blast in the trenches in France.

Jimmy Cook was raised in Buller Road. He made his debut for Exeter in October 1905 and quickly became a regular wing three quarter until the end of the 1906-7 season. In all he made over fifty appearances in two seasons scoring at least 27 tries. Being small in stature, his fleet footed exploits made him a favourite with club supporters. Then, in September 1907, he decided to join Devonport Albion where he created an immediate impression, scoring tries in both his opening matches.

However, before the month was out, he had signed for the Northern Union club Salford as a professional and had made his first appearance for his new club against Leeds. Jimmy Cook again became a favourite with home supporters scoring 98 tries in 161 appearances.





## **Private Geoffery Herbert Culverwell**

1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devonshire Regiment attached Dorset Regiment

Died 10 June 1916 Age 21

Missing believed drowned during the siege of Kut, Mesopotamia. His death was not officially confirmed until 1917.

On arrival in Exeter he joined the Territorials and was mobilised in August 1914. Because of his training he served as a dispenser at a hospital in India. As a keen soldier he volunteered for service in Mesopotamia at a time when his name had been put forward for a commission.



A member of a well-known Minehead family, Geoffery Culverwell played rugby for Taunton before moving to Exeter to take up an apprenticeship with Mr. H.C. Milton, a chemist with premises in High Street. His first appearance for the Exeter senior team came in March 1912 after which he became an automatic selection as a forward for the following two seasons. An injury in a game against St. Luke's College in March 1914 meant that he could not complete the season. He also represented Somerset in the County Championship.



## **Captain William John Edmonds**

1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devonshire Regiment

Died 19 May 1919 Age 43

Served with the Devonshire Regiment in India and Mesopotamia before being invalided home. He was later sent to Italy on special duties for the War Office. On his return he served in Liverpool as an Embarkation Officer. His health had been seriously undermined and he died after a long illness at his home in Ilfracombe.

William "Beefier" Edmonds had been a long term resident of Exeter and was described as "a true sportsman to his fingertips". He served on the committee of the Exeter club and his services as a referee were much sought after.



## **Lieutenant William Setten Goff M.C.**

Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Died 22 April 1918 Age 36

Killed in action in France

Bill Goff was born in Exeter into a family involved in the catering industry. His mother ran the Cathedral Restaurant for many years. After attending Heles School he joined the firm of Whitton & Laing, auctioneers and estate agents of Gandy Street.

Initially Goff joined the Exeter Oaks club but from the 1901-2 season he appeared regularly for Exeter as a centre or full back before persistent knee problems prompted a switch to playing amongst the forwards. He is likely to have played well over one hundred games for the club. He was elected captain for the 1906-7 season. His occupation was then to take him to South Wales where he firstly played for Swansea in 1909 and later Cardiff for whom he made 34 senior appearances.



Whilst resident in Wales, Billy Goff played occasional games for Exeter when visiting his family in the city during holiday periods. If he could not find a place in the Exeter team he played for the Exmouth club. During the 1913-4 season he made five appearances for Devon. His final game for Exeter came on Boxing Day 1913 against Clifton.





## **Lieutenant Sidney Eames Hucklebridge**

West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own)

Died 7 March 1919 Age 28

Died of influenza and complications in Belgium

A former student at Exeter School, Sidney Hucklebridge played regularly as a forward for Exeter Reserves during the 1912-3 season.



## **Serjeant Emrys Jones**

1<sup>st</sup> Devonshire Regiment attached Dorset Regiment

Died 22 November 1915 Age 23

Killed in action while leading his unit in an attack on enemy trenches in Mesopotamia



Emrys Jones was born at Gorseinon, South Wales, and came to study in Exeter at the Royal Albert Memorial College, the forerunner of the University College of the South-West. On completion of his studies he took up an appointment as an assistant master at St. Sidwell's school.

Making his debut for Exeter in October 1912, Emrys Jones was a regular selection though his availability was limited due to his commitment to his college team. He was a member of the Exeter side that fulfilled the club's final fixture before the outbreak of war. He was selected for all four of Devon's Country Championship matches in the 1913-4 season.



## Captain Maurice Harry Donne Parsons

Royal Horse Artillery

Died 18 July 1916 Age 35

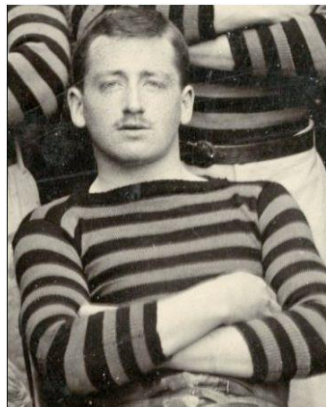
Killed in action in France

A memorial window was installed in the chancel of St. Leonard's church at Misterton to commemorate the lives of four members of the Parsons family who died during the war.



*Photo courtesy Geoffrey Albert*

After attending Sherborne School, where he played for the first fifteen for three seasons, Maurice Parsons joined his father's business, Messrs. Dymond & Parsons, Land Surveyors, of Exeter. He was an enthusiastic Volunteer rising to the rank of Major with the 1<sup>st</sup> Rifle Volunteers in the city and at one time was Acting Adjutant of the Battalion.



*Photo Rachel Hassall*

Maurice Parsons made his debut for Exeter in September 1898 appearing regularly as a centre three-quarter for some seven seasons and playing over 100 games. He was elected club captain for season 1900-1 at the age of twenty.



## **Second Lieutenant Charles Edward Tudor-Jones**

East Lancashire Regiment attached 3 Squadron Royal Flying Corps

Died 15 December 1915 Age 19

When flying over northern France the aircraft in which he was acting as an observation officer was shot down in aerial combat, killing both Tudor-Jones and the pilot.

He and the pilot were buried at Raismes. The German Flying Corps sent wreaths which were placed on the graves.



Charles Tudor-Jones came from his family home in Swindon to take up a position as an articled clerk with Mr. W.H. Michelmore, an Exeter solicitor.



He played as a stand-off half for Exeter Reserves throughout the 1913-4 season.





## **Major John Leonard Veitch M.C.**

7<sup>th</sup> Battalion attached 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Devonshire Regiment

Died 21 May 1918 Age 31

Killed in action by machine gun fire in northern France

Enlisted in August 1914 and saw front line service in France, being wounded at Vimy Ridge, and then Italy before returning to France.

A member of the well-known firm of nurserymen and landscape gardeners in Exeter, he was educated at Exeter School and spent time studying horticulture in Germany and Holland.



A keen cricketer and hockey player, Leonard Veitch first played rugby for the Exeter senior team on Boxing Day 1912. He then appeared regularly as a wing-three-quarter or as a half-back until January 1914 when he broke his leg whilst playing scrum-half against Bridgwater Albion.



## **Lance Corporal Albert Henry Webber**

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

Died 1 September 1918 Age 30

Died in Macedonia

Albert Webber played for the Reserves during the 1907-8 season but broke a bone in his shoulder during a practice game before the next season began. He returned to play again and made a number of appearances for the senior fifteen during 1911-2 season.



### *Associated players*



#### **Lieutenant Humphrey John Baillie M.C.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Dorset Regiment

Died 2 March 1916 Age 23

Killed by a sniper during the siege of Kut, Mesopotamia.



Humphrey Baillie played three matches for Exeter during March 1913 having previously played for Old Haileyburians and Barnstaple. His last appearance on a rugby field before leaving for India was for Devonport Albion.



#### **Private William George Commins**

34<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers

Died 8 September 1917 Age 31

Died in hospital at Portsmouth and is buried at Higher Cemetery, Exeter.

William Commins was a Heavitree player who was registered by the Exeter club for the 1907-8 season before he emigrated to the U.S.A.



**Sapper Jim Dodd**

Royal Engineers

Died 14 January 1917 Age 38

Died of pneumonia at Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham.

A resident of St. Thomas and a member of the Exeter Oaks club, "Jem" Dodd played six games as a three-quarter for Exeter at the start of the 1900-1 season.



**Lieutenant Wilfred Issell Partridge**

10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devonshire regiment

Died 24 April 1917 Age 25

Missing believed killed while leading his unit on a night attack in Macedonia.

Attended Heles and Exeter Schools. Played one game as a wing three-quarter for the Exeter club in December 1912.



**Signaller Percival William White**

10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Died 6 February 1918 Age 27

Along with two fellow Signallers, killed by a shell blast in France

Percy White played for the Alphington club and was recorded as having assisted Exeter.

