



Charlie Bristow GM

Last month we reported the placing of a cross on the grave of Lance Sergeant Charles Frederick Bristow GM who had been killed on Bomb Disposal duties. The cross had been laid by our own Ian Jones who is himself ex-bomb disposal.

Although not from Thame, Charles married Elsie Lomas at St Mary's, Thame on 26th December 1924 and lived in Thame during WW2. This month we are delighted to share with you the e-mail we have received from his grandson, Carl Harris. We have since received a photograph of Charles taken following his George Medal ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Ian has also been in touch with Carl's son (also Carl) who is serving in the Royal Marines and who has Charles's medals and citation.

Crosses Delivered

19 Aug 2017

Writer

Bertram Wheeler Mason
HMS Clan McNaughton

Midshipman

William Cecil Hoadley
HMS Bittern

Steve Perry & Verity Platek
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Devon

7 Aug 2017 info@thameremembers.org

It was with great interest that I read your remembrance of Lance/Sgt. Charles Frederick Bristow. Lance/Sgt. Bristow was my Grandfather. I am the only son of Rita Elaine, his oldest daughter.

I have lived in Illinois, USA for the past 27 years but still have close ties with Cranwell.

The term 'hero' is oft used, or should I say misused these days, but Charles Bristow was, without doubt, a true hero. He is still remembered fondly in the village and it was a honour and a privilege when I was invited to open the Village Garden of Remembrance to him some years ago. The Garden is located next to the Village Hall and he is remembered by a Brass Plaque located on the wall of the Hall. The land for the Hall (and the Garden), as you say, was donated by Fred (Puff) Bristow, and my Grandfather together with the villagers collected the original hall, a wooden hut, which was disused and donated by the RAF College Cranwell, and transported by horse and cart to the site to be erected by my Grandfather and those fellow villagers.

My mother, Rita, passed away in April 2013 but his two other daughters are still with us. Enid lives close to RAF Waddington, just outside Lincoln, and Anne in Derby. My Grandmother, Elsie nee Lomas, passed away in 2004 and was much loved and is much missed. She lived in Lincolnshire all her life other than for 18 months when she lived in Singapore with Rita, and her husband Raymond, my father. Raymond was in the Royal Air Force, as was I, and, in keeping with the military tradition, my son is Colonel Carl Christian Harris, Royal Marines. Legends abound regarding 'Charlie', as he was known in Cranwell Village. I never knew him as he was killed just over two years before my birth. However, there is no doubt in my mind that he was an exceptional man and a wonderful husband and father.

As a child I attended Cranwell Village School and it seemed that everyone knew and loved 'Charlie'.

I am proud that he was my Grandfather and touched by your kind tribute to a very special man.

*Thank You.
Carl Harris*



Wilfred Harry Clarke

A knock on my door last week saw receipt of the attached photograph of Wilfred Harry Clarke, one of two men from Thame who went down with the battleship HMS Formidable on 1 January 1915, along with the original letter advising of his demise, and the original King's Scroll. The letter was addressed to his mother at 17 Chinnor Road, Thame, though we have reason to believe that this was not the house now numbered as 17.

The scroll, accompanied by a plaque (Dead Man's Penny) was issued to the next of kin of all persons killed in WW1. The words were very carefully chosen and the result of a competition between prominent academics.

These documents were passed down to the son of Wilfred's brother. They have now been donated to us by his son (a neighbour in Towersey



Thame
museum

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

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

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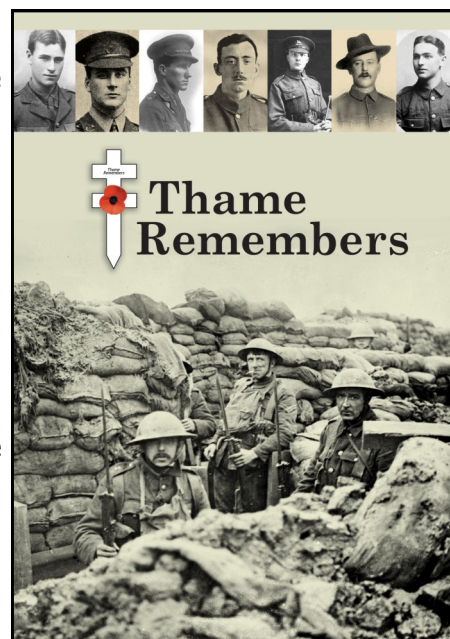
Drive), and at the end of the Thame Remembers project will be exhibited at Thame Museum.

Thame Remembers Book

Work is proceeding on the design, layout and content of our book, and we are pleased to show here the emerging design for the front cover.

We had not originally anticipated neither the need nor the appetite for this book but, as the project has evolved, it became clear that we should leave a permanent record and that a book would be the most appropriate legacy.

This will be a substantial full colour volume which recounts the research findings about the



men, some background to the conflicts and the story behind the Thame Remembers project itself, as well as recording the delivery of every cross. We are planning that it will be available in October 2018.

The book will have a cover price of £25 but you can reserve your copy now, at a discounted pre-purchase price of £20.

Payment can be made through our "mydonate" page (see panel), by cheque (made payable to Thame Museum) or by cash. Please be sure to include your name and contact details so that we can ensure you receive your copy.

Please send cheques and cash to; Treasurer, Thame Museum, 79 High St, Thame OX9 3AE.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/thameremembersbook/444554>

If you use "mydonate" might we ask that, as this is a purchase, you do not tick the Gift Aid box.

Thame Remembers is a project of Thame, Oxfordshire to commemorate the centenary of World War One by researching those from Thame who fell in all conflicts worldwide, and remembering them by placing a Thame Cross on their grave or memorial wherever in the world that may be. If you feel that you can help please contact Dave on 01844 21 5178.