

HERITAGE THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY (May 2017)

One hundred years ago the world was at war (1914-1918). Many Hertfordshire Scouts were involved in the conflict and 76 died. A most significant loss was to the family of **Arthur and Cecilia Mayes**.

They had 7 children, but by the time the war ended in 1918, they had lost 3 sons. **John William** died aged 24 on 5 April 1917; **Alfred Leonard** died aged 22 on 28 June 1917; and **Vivian Charles** died aged 19 on 1 September 1918.



They were all members of the First Welwyn Scout Troop and their names are included on the war memorials at Welwyn and at the First Welwyn Scout Group Headquarters. On Armistice Day 2016, a new memorial was unveiled at the HQ. This was followed by a public service at the village war memorial.

To promote Scouting, the Boy Scouts Association commissioned Trans-Atlantic Studios to produce a film for public viewing. *Boy Scouts – Be Prepared*. Remembering that Scouting was only 9 years old and becoming hugely popular, the film was to show how boys joined Scouting and were trained to deal with every day emergencies. The film was made in St Albans, at the Marshalswick Estate and on Nomansland Common, Wheathampstead. The actors were Scouts from the Fourth St Albans Troop and the image shows **Sir Robert Baden-Powell** pointing with his thumb stick and **Percy Everett (CC)** with his hand up to the brim of his hat. To the rear is **Charles Dymoke-Green (DC of St Albans)** leaning on his cane. The film took several weeks to make and was released as a 7 weekly series on 18 October. *The Scout*, the weekly newspaper, serialized the film. All 3016 copies of *The Scout* are held in the County Resource Facility.



Also in May, a public wall shrine to the memory of Scouts from Buntingford who were serving in the Great War was unveiled. It was designed and constructed by **Scoutmaster C. Miles** who was also the town's barber. By the date of the unveiling, 4 Scouts had already been killed and their names were shown in the centre panel.

Edward Rogers died on 14 May 1917, while captive in Turkey. He is acknowledged to be one of the 5/6 boys who called at the home of **Percy Everett** on 20 February 1908 asking him to be their Scoutmaster. At that time, he was a member of the choir at St Nicholas Church, Elstree. As soon as war was declared on 14 August 1914, Edward, along with other members of the First Elstree Troop had rushed to enlist as volunteers. **Edwards Rogers** name is inscribed on the Basra War Memorial in today's Iraq that commemorates 40,500 members of the Commonwealth Forces who died in Mesopotamia from September 1914 to August 1921 and have no known grave. Edward's name is also remembered on the Elstree war memorial, on a memorial in St Nicholas Church, as well as in the churchyard where it is inscribed on the family gravestone. The photo shows **Andrew** and **Daniel** of the Third and First Elstree Troops laying a wreath there on 29 June 2008 (during the centenary celebrations of Elstree District).



On 13 May, the Gilt Cross for bravery was awarded to **Joseph Rowe** of the First Berkhamsted Troop. He had stopped a runaway horse and cart. This act had become so frequent that front cover of *The Scout* of 20 June 1908 showed the correct method and was accompanied by an instructional article.

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