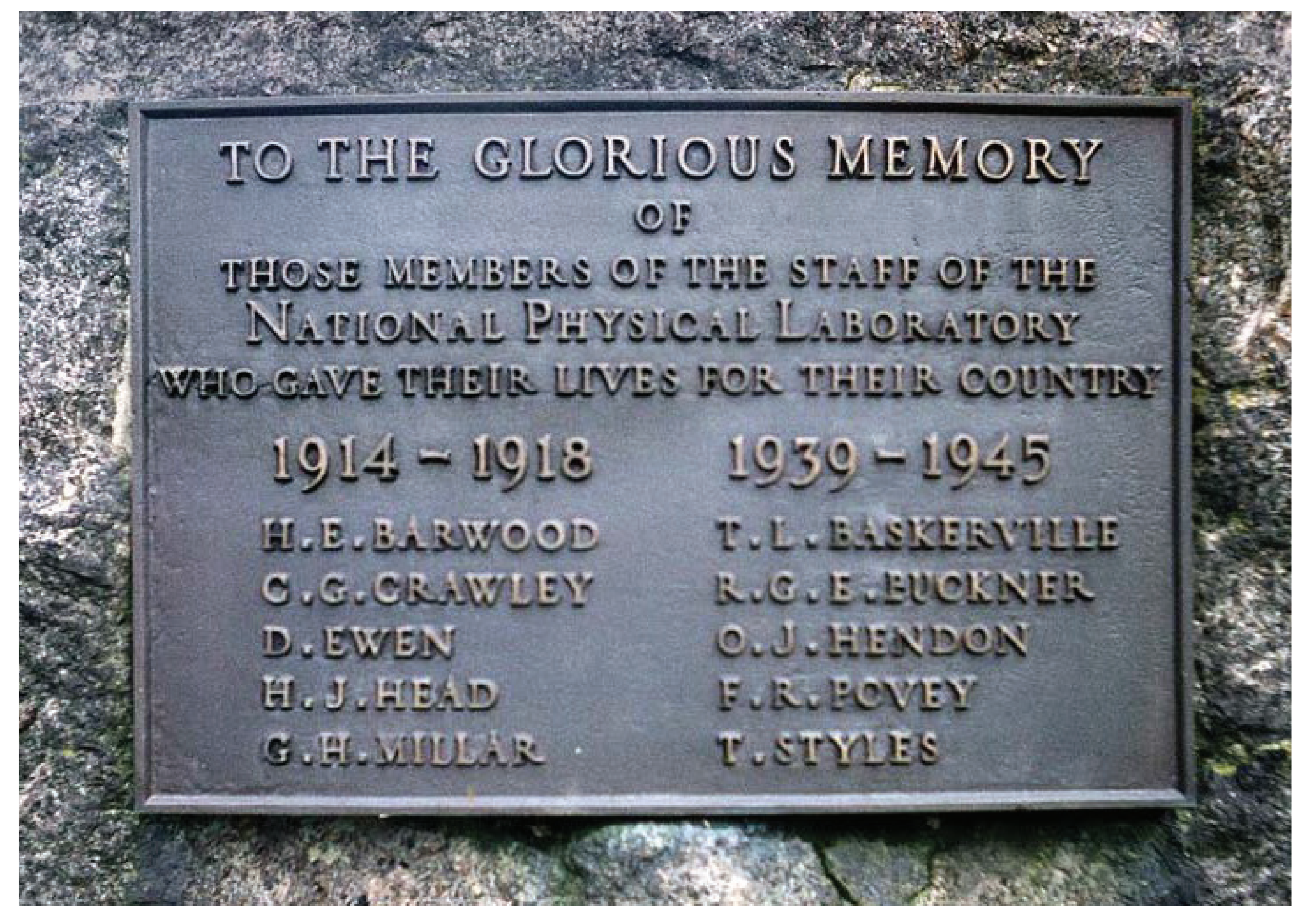


To The Glorious Memory

Sacrifices made by NPL staff during the First World War



When Great Britain found itself at war with Germany on 4th August 1914, many members of the NPL staff rallied to the cause and enlisted to serve King and Country and continued to do so throughout the entirety of the First World War, serving on land, the sea and in the air.

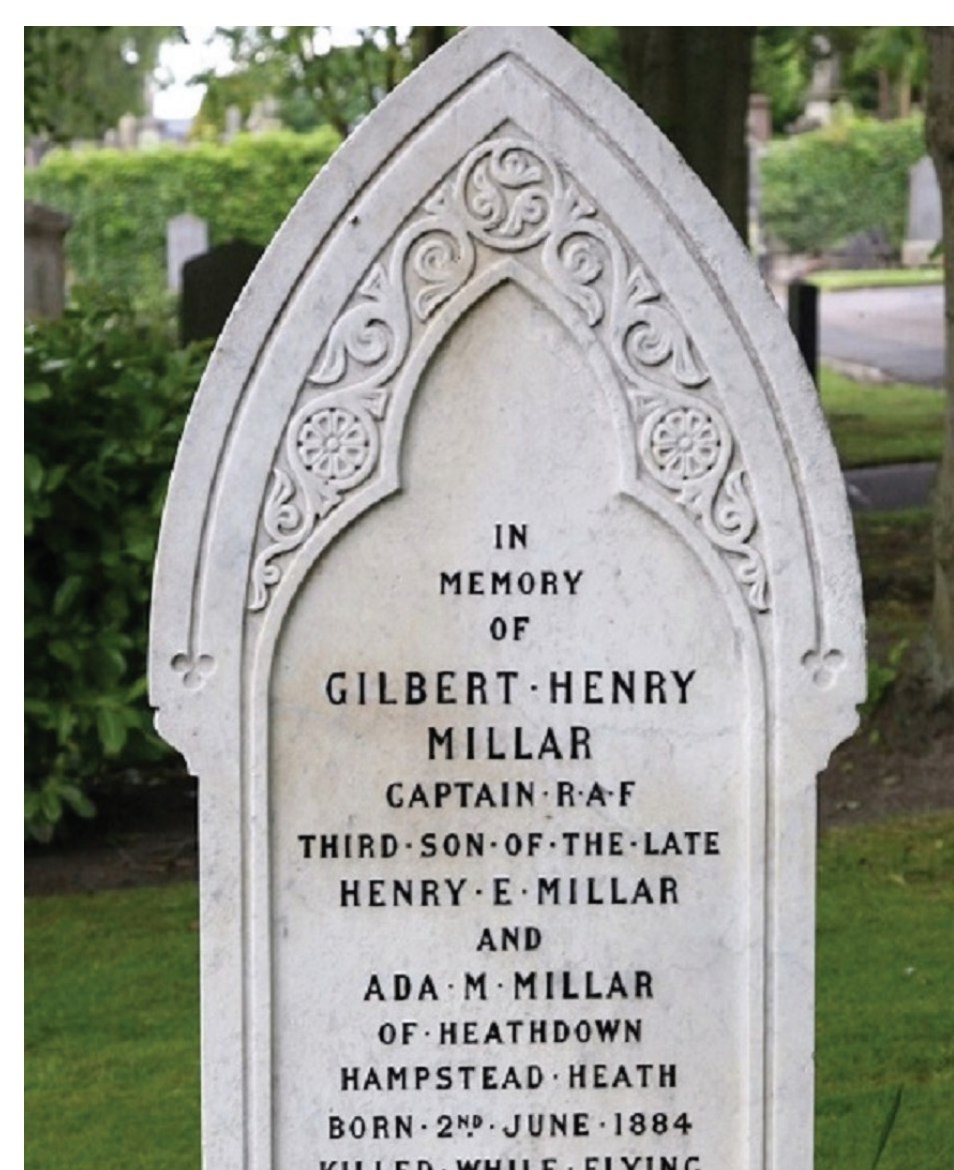
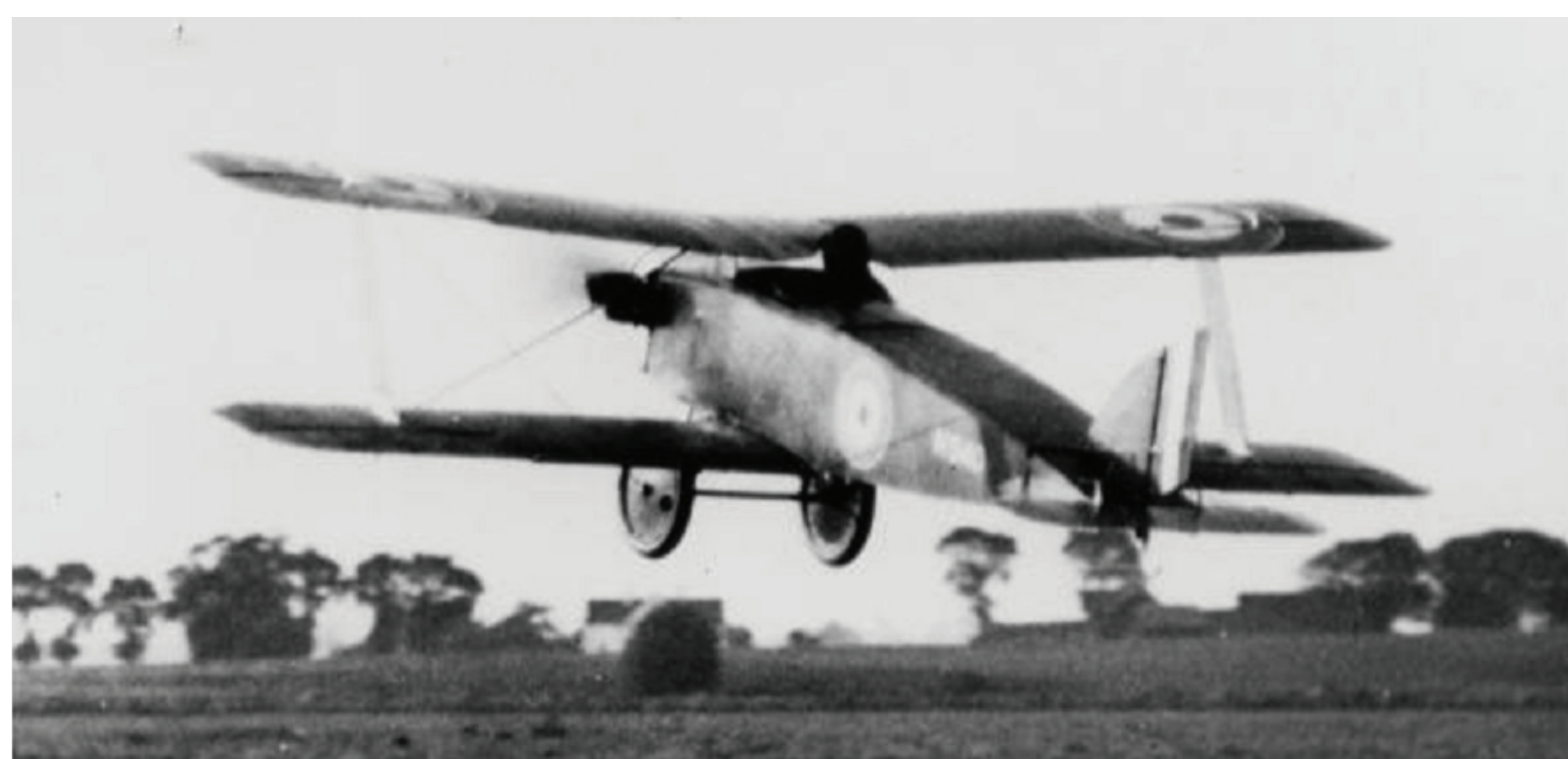
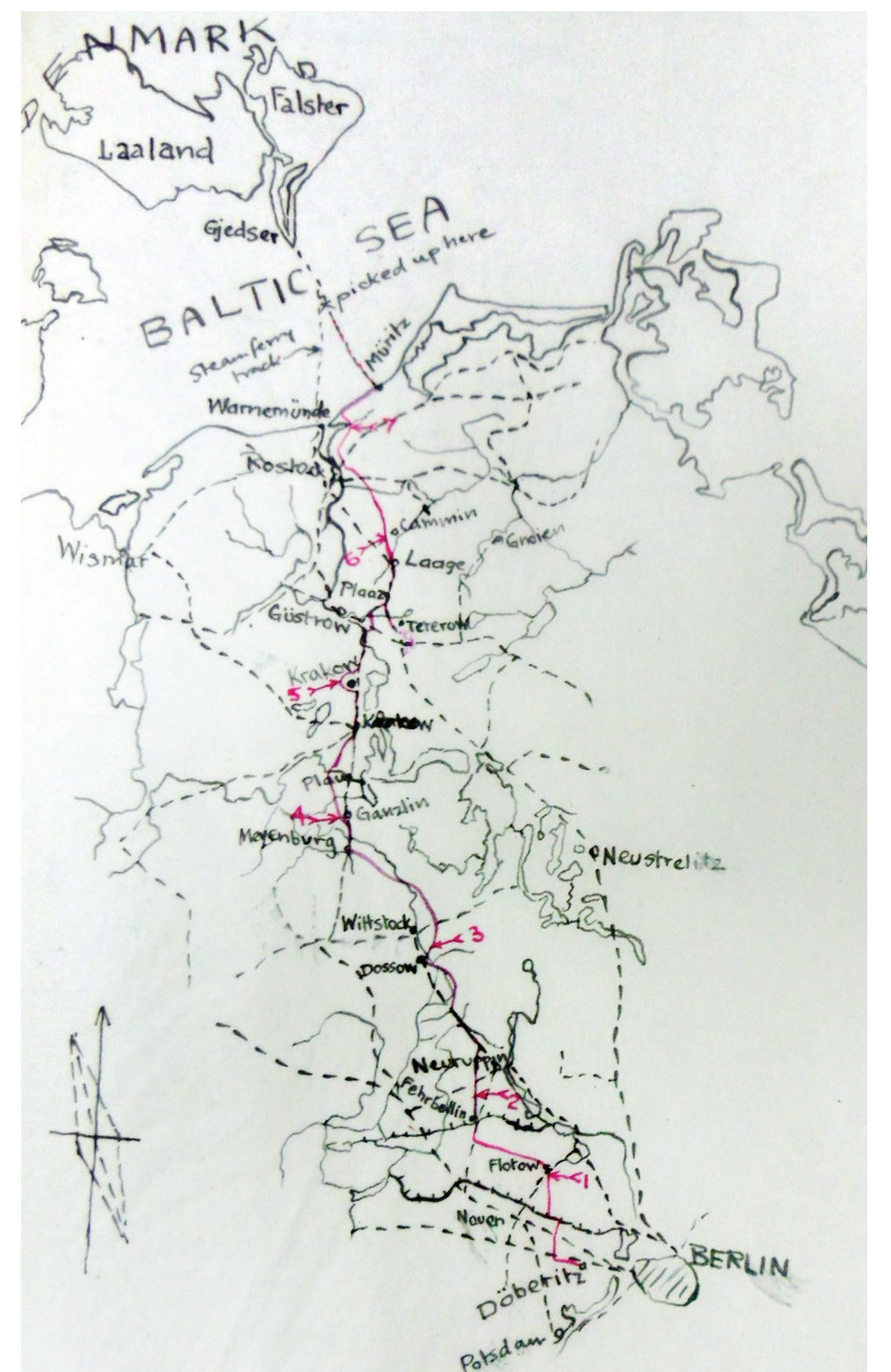


Very sadly during the course of the conflict that raged until the Armistice on 11th November 1918, five brave members of the NPL staff paid the ultimate price and gave their lives. They are commemorated on the war memorial located near the site entrance.

NPL's Extraordinary Gilbert Millar



Gilbert Henry Millar was born in 1884 and excelled in academic achievement and joined NPL in 1910, working on testing models of vessels in the William Froude National Tank. A keen yachtsman in his spare time, when war was declared he enlisted with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. However, rather than going to sea, the desperate early months of war saw Gilbert sent overseas for the defence of Antwerp where he was taken prisoner in October 1914 by the advancing German army. Held at a PoW camp near Berlin, Gilbert made a daring escape in September 1915 and walked all the way to the Baltic coast and by boat to safety in Denmark. Returning home, Gilbert transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service and gained his pilot's licence. His technical ability led him to design the 'Eastchurch Kitten', a diminutive shipboard fighter and to serve test flying from the Royal Navy's first aircraft carrier, *HMS Furious*. Tragically Gilbert was killed in an air crash in April 1918 and he is buried at Dunfermline.



Harry Barwood

The young stretcher bearer



Harry Edward Barwood was born in 1896 and started work at NPL in 1913 and before war was declared had joined the Territorial Force as a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was sent across the English Channel in late December 1914 to serve as a stretcher bearer on the Western Front at the Belgian town of Ypres. Stubborn British defence held up the German advance and in April 1915 the enemy began a huge artillery bombardment during which Harry was badly wounded. Evacuated to England, he sadly died of his wounds at the Royal Victoria Military Hospital at Netley, where he is buried. Harry was 19 years of age.



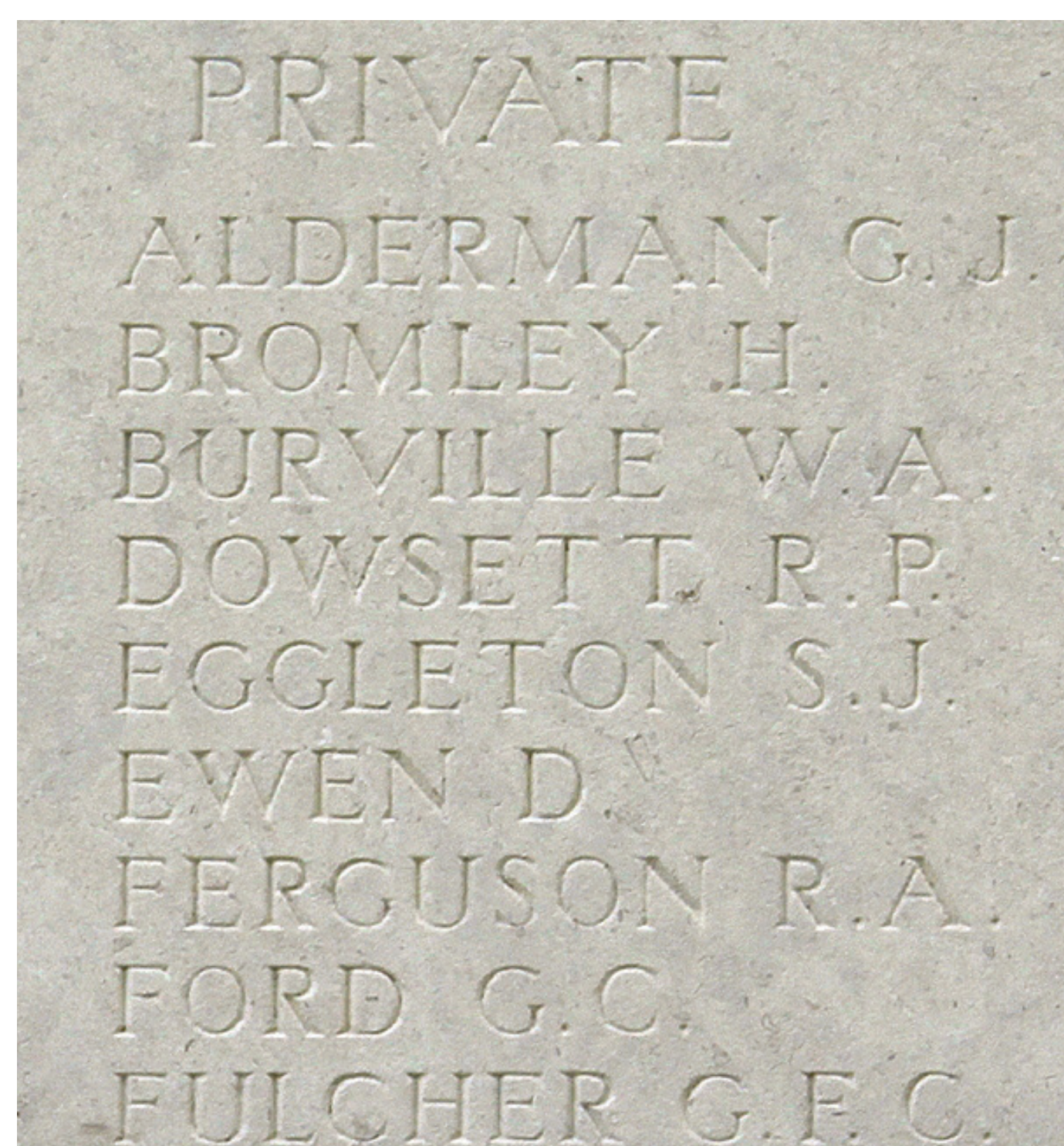
Donald Ewen

The telegram that came too late



Donald Ewen was born in 1887 and attended Birmingham University to study metallurgy and he started work at NPL in 1911. He joined the Territorial Force in 1913 as a member of the London Scottish Regiment and it became one of the first reservist battalions to be sent overseas to fight. Donald and his comrades were pitched into fierce battle after battle and casualties were high. Donald applied for a commission, but he was found to be suffering hearing loss on account of

the shellfire experienced, but he volunteered to remain with his battalion as a stretcher bearer. Tragically he went 'missing' during the Battle of Loos in October 1915 on the day a telegram arrived recalling him back to England and resume his work at NPL. He is remembered on the Loos Memorial.

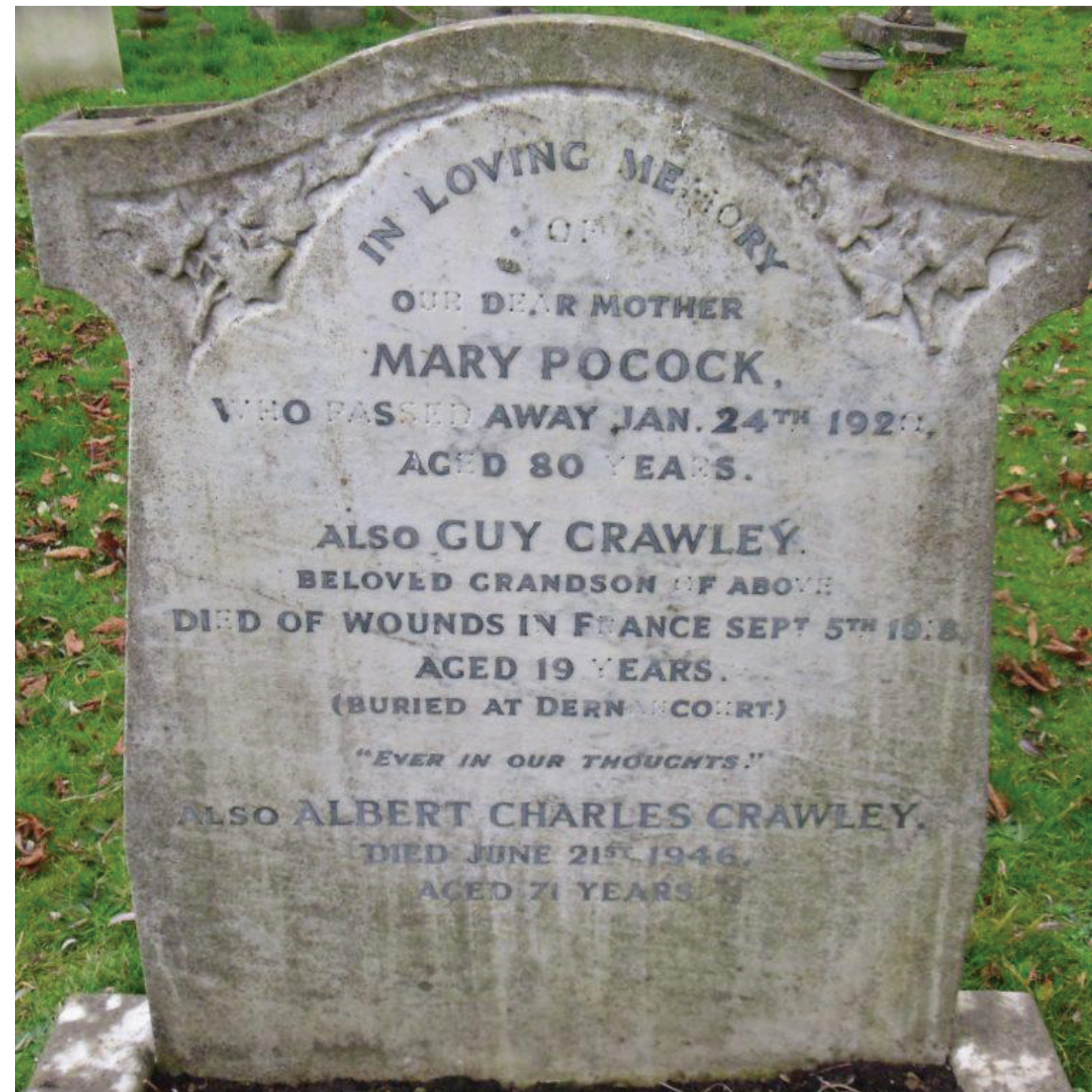


'Guy' Crawley

The local hero



Charles Granville Guy Crawley was born in 1899 and grew up in Teddington and on gaining employment at NPL worked in the aeronautical department. Enlisting in late 1916, 'Guy' was sent to the Western Front in December 1917 as a Rifleman with the Civil Service Rifles. Continually in the trenches, he fought in many battles as the Allies gradually pushed the Germans back, but at great cost to his battalion. In yet another attack in early September 1918, Guy was severely wounded and later died. He is buried at Dernancourt in France and also remembered by name on the family grave.



Horace Head

The boy soldier

The particulars Horace Head gave and was measured to have when enlisting:

First Name(s): H
Last Name: Head
Regiment: East Surrey Regiment
Age: 19 Years 3 Months
Height: 5ft 3in.
Weight (pounds): 108
Chest size (inches): 32.5
Chest Expansion (inches): 2.5
Occupation: Errand Boy
Birthplace: Belmont
Attestation date: 16 August 1915
Attestation place: Kingston
Above recorded in the Surrey Recruitment Registers 1908-1933



Horace John Head was born in 1898 and after his family moved to Teddington he started work at NPL in 1913. Having lied to enlist underage, he arrived on the Western Front on his 18th Birthday in September 1916 as a Rifleman with the Post Office Rifles. During the first attack he took part in on the Somme battlefield at the Butte de Warlencourt in early October, young

Horace went 'missing' where murderous enemy machine-gun fire cut down hundreds of men during the failed advance. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial listing over 72,000 names of the missing.

