

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, NEW HAW WAR MEMORIAL

Researched and written by Graham Webster

The All Saints' church, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Surrey's War Memorial take the form of a wooden triptych with lockable doors. The inscription reads:

FOR GOD KING AND COUNTRY [centre]

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS [centre]

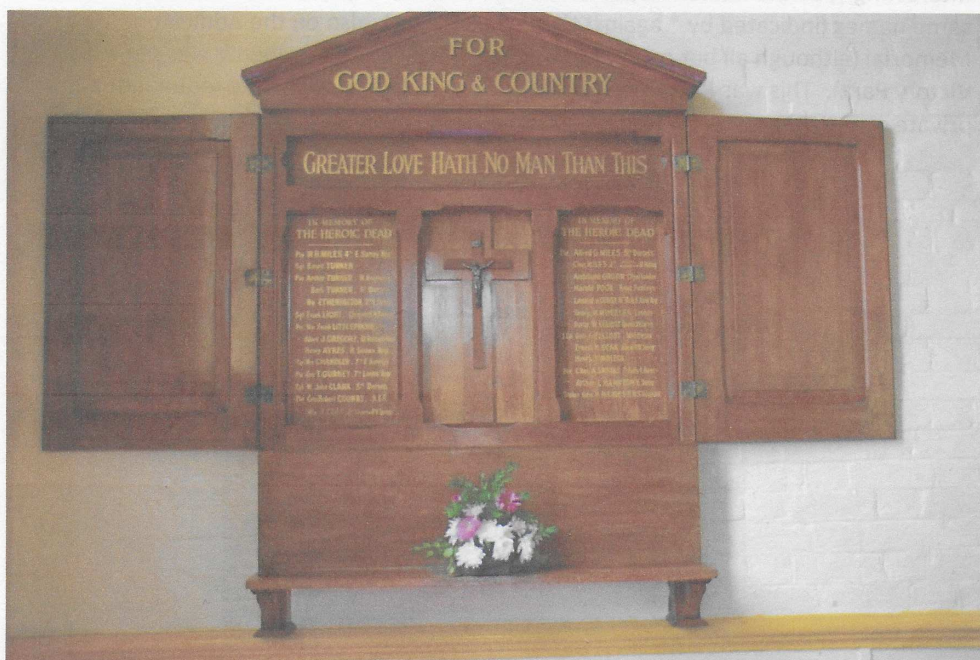
IN MEMORY OF THE HEROIC DEAD [above left and right panels]

The dedication of the memorial was reported in *Surrey Advertiser* on 14 April 1917 (p7, col 4):

DEDICATION OF WAR SHRINE

A war shrine, given anonymously, and erected outside All Saints' Church, Newhaw [sic], was dedicated by the Rev. E. Dennett before evensong on Easter Day [8 April] in the presence of a large number of those interested. It takes the form of a triptych with a copper cross beneath which are inscribed the names of the Newhaw [sic] men who have fallen. On the side panels are the names of those serving from this district.

The memorial is now sited within the church:





All Saints' church, New Haw, Surrey War Memorial (© Graham WEBSTER)

Interestingly, all the names inscribed on the All Saints' triptych are, with the exception of some names (indicated by * against the names below), also on the Addlestone War Memorial (although all but one was restored to the memorial when it was moved to Victory Park). This was Roll of Honour in St Augustine's Church, now redundant and in private ownership.



Roll of Honour, St Augustine's Church, Addlestone (Source: WATLING 2007)

The names inscribed were transferred to Addlestone, Surrey's Victory Park and the memorial gateway at the park's entrance on Chertsey Road.

The names as inscribed on the All Saints' triptych are (in alphabetical order):

ACOURT, Leonard



Leonard A'COURT (Source: KNIGHT, 2012)

Leonard Percy Frank A'COURT, son of Frank and Cecilia Mary A'COURT, of 10, Australian Cottages, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey was a Private in the 6th Bn, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), service no. 22012 and died on **23 May 1918**. He is buried in the Mailly Wood Cemetery, Mailly-Maillet, Somme France.

Leonard was born at Brooklands Farm on 18 Aug 1899 and baptised on 23 Sep 1899 at St James, Weybridge, Surrey. He was his parent's third child. In 1901 (under the surname COURT) he is shown as living with the family at Brooklands Elmbury Cottage, The Heath, Chertsey, Surrey; his father was an estate labourer. Parents and eldest daughter had moved from Nether Compton, Dorset between 1894 and 1897. By 1911, the family had moved to 10, Australian Cottages, New Haw and his father had become a bricklayer's labourer. Leonard (as given in the Census) was the only other child living at home. Prior to the war Leonard worked for the baker Mr. Burgess. He was nephew to George Henry HAINE *see below*.

When he was conscripted, Leonard reported to Guildford Barracks and there he joined the 6th Battalion East Kent Regiment (The Buffs). In May 1918, just 6 months before the end of the war, Leonard was sent to France. On 20th May Leonard's Battalion moved into the trenches at Mailly Wood, on the Somme, to relieve the 7th Battalion of the Royal Sussex regiment. This was Leonard's first time in the trenches. On 23rd May, after only 3 days at the front, Leonard was killed by shell fire.

After he was killed in action, his mother was awarded a 5s a week British Army pension in Dec 1918.

As briefly mentioned in our last issue, Pte. Leonard Percy Frank A'Court, of the East Kent Regt., - only son of Mrs. A'Court, of Australian Cottages, Newhaw was killed in

France on May 22nd, the news reaching his mother on June 4th. The young fellow (he was only 18 years and 9 months old) joined up in October, 1917, and left for France as recently as April 28th. Prior to enlisting he had been employed by Mr. E. A. Burgess, baker and confectioner, for nearly three years. Mrs. A'Court has also received information that her husband is in a French hospital, but the nature of his illness is at present unknown. He has been in France serving with the Royal Engineers since October, 1915.

Sec.-Lieut. C. Reader has written to the bereaved mother: "I was very sorry indeed to lose your son, for although he had been in France but a few weeks he was a very promising young lad, full of courage, grit and determination. His death was very sudden, for he was asleep in his dug-out when a shell fell right on top of him, so he never had the slightest suffering. All the members of his platoon wish me to convey to you their deepest sympathy, for he was very popular."

Mrs A'Court wishes to thank all the kind and numerous friends, through this journal, for the sympathy extended to them in their great loss. (Surrey Herald, 14 June 1918, p4)