HA Annual Conference 16 & 17 May 2014 Holiday Inn, Stratford upon Avon

From the Fen to the frontline: local history in context

OCR AQA PEARSON

Geraint Brown

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Cottenham Village College, Cambridgeshire



#haconf14

"For pupils whose 'world-view' might barely extend beyond their own village, local history can be a doorway into different times, places and minds."

Brown and Woodcock, TH 134

The National Curriculum:

"Ensure all pupils:

• Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history...



What do you think is the connection between the following names?

Croxon

Cundell

Chivers

Trundley

Todd

Gautrey

Clark

Chapman

Gifford



What kind of community was Cottenham 100 years ago?

(Think: wealth, jobs, transport, size, society, etc.)



What kind of community was Cottenham 100 years ago?

(Think: wealth, jobs, transport, size, society, etc.)



What kind of community was Cottenham 100 years ago?

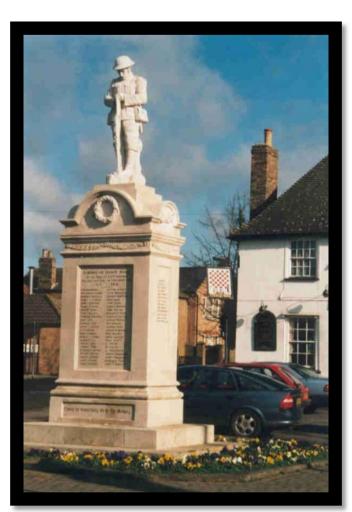
(Think: wealth, jobs, transport, size, society, etc.)



Why might a community like Cottenham have put up a memorial like this?

What had happened? What does it suggest about their reaction?









Just a few of the 200 local men who died fighting in WWI:

Croxon

Cundell

Chivers

Trundley

Todd

Gautrey

Clark

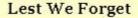
Chapman

Gifford











In Grateful and Honoured Memory

From: www.roll-of-honour.com

OF THE MEN OF COTTENHAM
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918
THEIRS THE IMMORTALITY, OURS THE MEMORY

On the back panel of the stone are the lines:

THEIR LOT THE GLORIOUS PRICE TO PAY, OURS TO RECORD WITH GRATEFUL PRIDE THAT FREEDOM LIVES WITH US TODAY BECAUSE THEY DIED.

1914-1918

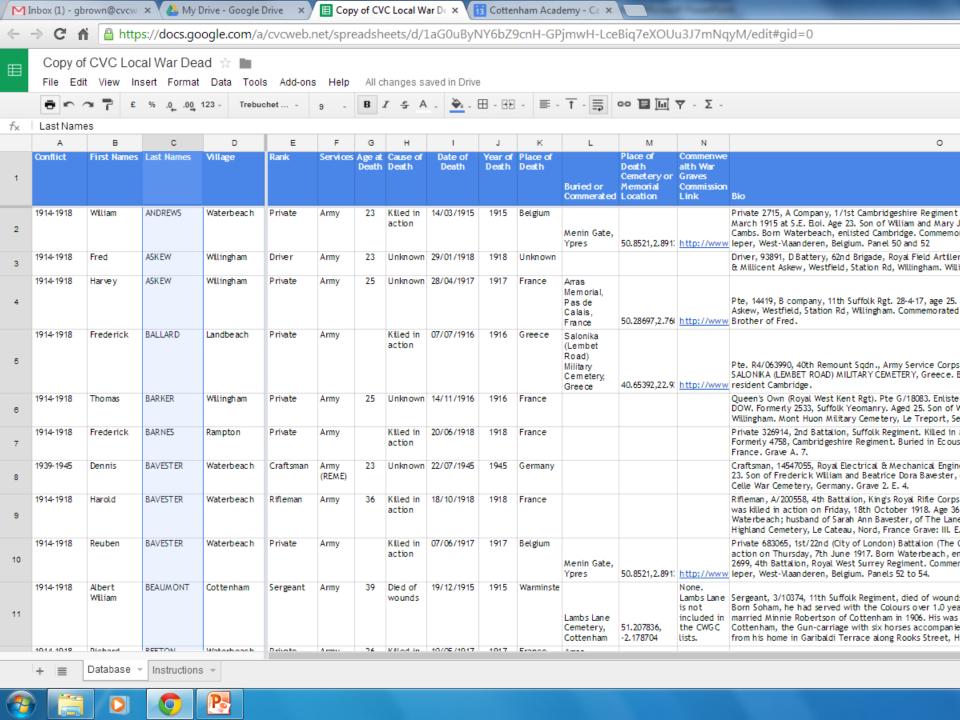
Albert William BEAUMONT

Sergeant, 3/10374, 11th Suffolk Regiment, died of wounds at Warminster December 19 1915, age 39. Born Soham, he had served with the Colours over 1.0 years including the South African War. He married Minnie Robertson of Cottenham in 1906. His was the first military funeral ever remembered at Cottenham, the Gun-carriage with six horses accompanied by 25 soldiers with officers, proceeding from his home in Garibaldi Terrace along Rooks Street, High Street to the Cemetery in Lambs Lane.

William Robert Bruce CLARKE

Captain, 14th London Scottish attached to Royal Air Force, came home from France on 48 hours leave, his wife being ill. He was taken ill with influenza and died at 1st Eastern General Hospital Cambridge, December 1 1918, age 32. Buried in Cottenham Churchyard. Son of Dr William and Effie Bruce Clarke of Harley Street, London, he married 1913 at Cottenham Church, Ethel, only daughter.

Eile <u>E</u> dit <u>V</u> ie	it <u>V</u> iew <u>I</u> nsert F <u>o</u> rmat <u>R</u> ecords <u>T</u> ools <u>W</u> indow <u>H</u> elp									
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Var Years	First Names	Last Names	Village	Rank	Services		Cause of Death	Date of Death	Place of Death	Т
914-1918	Albert William	BEAUMONT	Cottenham	Sergeant	Armγ	_	Died of wounds		Warminster	Bea
914-1918	William Robert Bruce	CLARKE		Captain	Army	32	Medical	01/12/1918	Cambridge	Cla
914-1918	Andrew Thomas	BURGESS	Cottenham		Army	21	Unknown	23/11/1916	-	Bur
914-1918	Ernest Edward	CARRIER	Cottenham	Private	Army	30	Killed in action	26/12/1917	France	Car
914-1918	Harry	CHAPMAN		Trooper	Army	36	Unknown	03/06/1916	Ypres, Belgium	Cha
914-1918	Frank William	CHIVERS		Private	Army		Medical	02/10/1918		Chi
914-1918	Arthur	CLARK	Cottenham	Private	Army	31	Unknown	31/10/1916	Somme, France	Cla
914-1918	Fred	COLLINS	Cottenham	Private	Army	22	Killed in action	02/10/1916	France	Col
914-1918	Thomas	CORNELL	Cottenham	Private	Army	26	Killed in action	11/09/1916	France	Cor
914-1918	Bertie	COX	Cottenham	Private	Army	19	Unknown	10/07/1917	France	Ber
914-1918	Charles Harold	COX	Cottenham	Private	Army	21	Medical	29/01/1919	Unknown	Cha
914-1918	Ralph Leslie	CROSS	Cottenham	Rifleman	Army	21	Unknown	05/04/1918	London	Cro
914-1918	George Richard	CROXON	Cottenham	Private	Army	19	Unknown	22/08/1918	France	Cro
914-1918	Henry	CUNDELL	Cottenham	Private	Army	34	Died of wounds	18/10/1917	France	Cur
914-1918	Ernest John	DANN	Cottenham	Private	Army	22	Died of wounds	19/11/1917	France	Dar
914-1918	Albert	ELY	Cottenham	Private	Army	26	Killed in action	31/07/1917	France	Alb
914-1918	Frank Wayman	ELY	Cottenham	2nd Lieutenant	Air Force	22	Killed in action	08/10/1918	France	Fra
914-1918	Albert	FEW	Cottenham	Private	Army	35	Unknown	31/03/1918	Germany POW	<u>few</u>
914-1918	Ernest Levi	GIFFORD	Cottenham	Private	Army	27	Killed in action	19/06/1917	Belgium	ean
914-1918	Percy Edward	GIFFORD	Cottenham	Private	Army	19	Unknown	19/08/1916	France	Per
914-1918	Sidney	GOLDING	Cottenham	Private	Army	38	Missing in action	14/04/1917	France	gold
914-1918	William Henry	GRAINGER	Cottenham	Private	Army	32	Killed in action	30/09/1916	France	grai
914-1918	Alfred Ernest	GRAVES	Cottenham	Private	Army	22	Died of wounds	08/10/1917	France	grav
914-1918	Frederick Thomas	HEWITT	Cottenham	Private	Army	25	Killed in action	15/06/1915	Ypres, Belgium	fred
914-1918	John	HEWITT	Cottenham	Private	Army	24	Killed in action	21/12/1915	France	johr
914-1918	Robert	HEWITT	Cottenham	Private	Army	32	Killed in action	24/11/1917	France	rob
914-1918	Arthur Horace	HOLT	Cottenham	Boy 1st Class	Royal Navy	17	Ship blew up	26/11/1914	At Sea	holt
914-1918	Ernest Edward	HOPKINS	Cottenham	Private	Army	30	Missing in action	30/10/1914	Ypres, Belgium	hop
914-1918	Samuel George William	HOUGHTON	Cottenham	Sergeant	Army		Died of wounds	16/04/1918	France	hou
914-1918	Herbert	KIMPTON	Cottenham	Private	Army	36	Killed in action	01/07/1916	France	kim
914-1918	Bert	LACK	Cottenham	Sapper	Army	30	Killed in action	27/05/1918	France	lack
914-1918	Alfred John	LEETE	Cottenham	Sergeant	Army	20	Killed in action	18/06/1917	France	leet
914-1918	George	MANGES	Cottenham		Army	17	Killed in action	07/10/1916	Somme, France	mai
21/1/1018	lohn	MILTON	Cattanham	Drivor	Armo	28	Killad in action	05/10/1017	Vrnoc Rolaium	milt
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- What historical learning are we focusing on and how will ICT add value and enhance this?
- How will the ICT be embedded in the planning context the enquiry question, the concepts and the processes.
- What will the pupils (rather than teachers) be doing with the ICT and how does this relate to the history learning focus?
- How can classroom-based work provide a rich context for work outside the classroom? Should we ask the same questions about 'learning outside the classroom'?





High quality ICT use is dependent on our own clarity about the kind of historical thinking and historical knowledge we want to develop in pupils.

Christine Counsell

History, ICT and Learning in the Secondary School (2003)





Because of the volume of data that a database can store, and the sophistication of its manipulation tools, pupils can be taught to look for worthwhile patterns, to frame hypotheses about 'big stories', to question accepted pictures of the long-term view and to place interesting little details and stories into broader historical contexts that they have set up and tested for themselves.

Dave Martin

History, ICT and Learning in the Secondary School (2003)



Was WWI The GREAT War for the people of Cottenham?

Groundbreaking Remembered Lffects that are far-reaching Affecting the future Terrifying

According to Gombrich, WWI was great because..

According to Gombrich, WWI was great because..

World War One – the Great War?

The world [had] never seen a war like it. Millions and millions of people marched against each other. Even Africans and Indians had to fight. The German armies were stopped when they reached the River Marne, not far from Paris. From this moment on, real battles, in the old sense, would only very rarely be fought. Instead, giant armies dug themselves in, and made their camps in endlessly long trenches facing one another. Then, for days on end, they fired thousands of guns at each other, bursting out in assaults through barricades of barbed wire and blown-up trenches, across a scorched and devastated wasteland strewn with corpses. In 1915, Italy also declared war on Austria, despite having originally been its ally. Now people fought in the snow and ice of the mountains of the Tirol and the famous exploits of Hannibal's warriors during their crossing of the Alps seemed like child's play compared with the courage and endurance show by these simple soldiers.

People fought each other in the skies in aeroplanes; they dropped bombs on peaceful towns, sank innocent ships, and fought on the sea and under the sea...People invented horrible weapons that murdered and mutilated thousands each day, the most terrible of which were gases that poisoned the air. Anyone who breathed them died in terrible agony. These gases were either released and carried to the enemy soldiers on the wind, or fired in the form of grenades which released their poison when they exploded. People built armoured cars and tanks which moved slowly and inexorably over ditches, walls, demolishing and crushing everything in their path.

[In 1917] the Americans had decided to step in. Nevertheless, the Germans and Austrians held out for more than a year against overwhelming odds. By putting all their efforts into a last desperate attempt in the west, they very nearly won. In the end, however, they were exhausted. And when, in 1918, America's President Wilson announced that he wanted a just peace in which each nation would determine its own fate, many of their troops gave up. So Germany and Austria were forced to agree to a ceasefire. Those who had survived returned home to starving families.

Eleven million people died in that war and entire regions were devastated in a way that had never been seen before. The suffering was beyond imagination.

EH Gombrich, A Little History of the World

World War One – the Great War?

So, which definitions or meanings of the word *great* does Gombrich use to explain the significance of WWI?

Can you create an **acronym** for the criteria he uses, based on the word *great*?

G

R

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A

T

How does this affect the village of Cottenham?

(Think: emotional, social, economic)

- What does this story reveal about the significance of the war locally and hationally? If the Somme, in France. Harry was aged just 17, Herbert, 25. They were both part of 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment. Frank Worland, What does it suggest about whether it was a *Great* War? Just six
- What would EH Gombrich make of this story? How might he *use* it? of him as they waited to go over the top. Which of his criteria for WWI being the *Great* War does it support?
- Which of his criteria for WWI being the *Great* War does it support? On that first day of the Somme, 20,000 allied troops were killed.
- Another 40,000 were injured. Among the dead were Harry and Herbert Worland, both killed on the same day, in the same battle. At home waited their parents, Fred and Eliza.
- Herbert's body was never found, so he has no known grave. He is commemorated on the Memorial to the Missing, at Thiepval, France. Harry died near La Boisselle and was buried in Gordon Dump Cemetery.

World War One – the Great War?

Gombrich's GREAT criteria		Quotation from Gombrich	Evidence from database: supports / contradicts / missing
G	(Us	e your sheets from last	lesson.)
	_ Υοι	I now need to use t	he database to <i>test</i> Gombrich's
R	crit	eria for WWI being	the <i>Great</i> War.
	Car	n you find examples	of stories that:
E	• <u>Su</u>	pport his criteria?	
	• <u>Co</u>	ntradict his criteria?	
	• 5	there anything missing	from these stories that Gombrich claims
A	was	significant?	
Т			

World War One – the Great War?

Gombrich's GREAT criteria	Quotation from Gombrich	Evidence from database: supports / contradicts / missing
T "Terrifying Technology"	"People fought each other in the skies in aeroplanes; they dropped bombs on peaceful towns, sank innocent ships, and fought on the sea and under the seaPeople invented horrible weapons that murdered and mutilated thousands each dayPeople built armoured cars and tanks"	SUPPORTS: Frank Ely (2 nd Lieutenant) was shot down flying his Bristol aeroplane in France in 1918, aged 22. Arthur Holt (Boy 1 st Class) was killed when his ship, HMS Bulwark, was blown up. William Grainger (Private) killed by shrapnel in France, having been there 22 days. CONTRADICTS: William Clarke (Captain) died in Cambridge after contracting influenza during a 48 hour period of home leave to visit his ill wife. MISSING: No mention of submarines or tanks. No mention of civilians dying because of bombs being dropped on 'peaceful towns'.

Contexts: WWI enquiries

Did Two Bullets Lead to 20 Million Deaths? (Causation)

Was the First World War the *Great* War for Cottenham? (Significance; interpretations)

What makes a good story about life on the Western Front? (Sense of period; diversity)

Mud, Blood and Music Project (inter-disciplinary work)

The endless poetry...



Contexts: Family history & homework

Task 1: First World War documentary (film, podcast, etc.) on chosen topics such as medicine, the Somme, Haig...

Task 2: Family History research (POWs, conscientious objectors, pilots, spies, submariners, generals...)



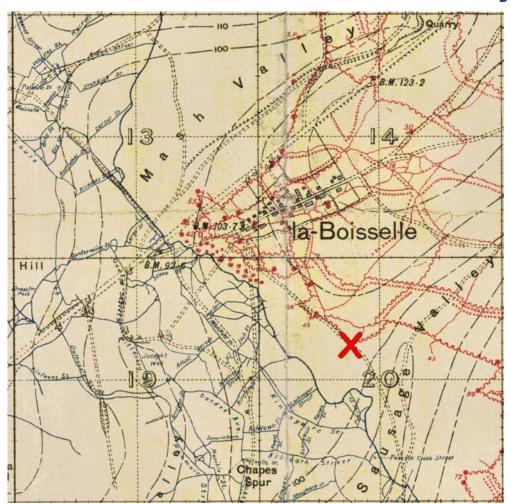




War is Declared!

- Readings and songs (local accounts, poems, Private Peaceful)
- Accounts of 1st July 1916: La Boisselle & 11th Suffolks
- Thiepval Memorial: 27 local men
- Beaumont Hamel
- Fricourt German Cemetery
- Gordon Dump Cemetery: Harry Worland
- Readings (poems, accounts)





Question prompted by the database enquiry: why did so many (12) local boys die on the first day of the Somme?





on

The First Day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916.



A brief history of the 11th Suffolks before the Somme.

1914	November	Cambridge Battalion (11th Suffolks) formed. First parade on Parkers' Piece, Cambridge.
1915	January	The battalion gets enough volunteers to bring it up to full strength (1,350 men).
1916	January	The battalion leaves for France and enters the trenches for the first time.
1916	1 st July	The battalion takes part in the Battle of the Somme. This is its first real battle



Volunteers who had joined the 11th Suffolks outside the Cambridge Corn Exchange.

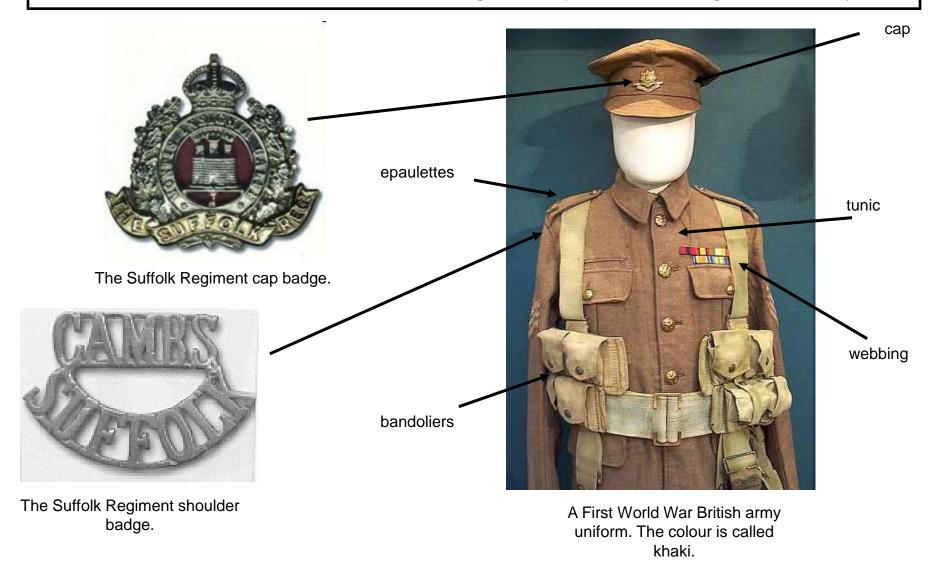
Because the German army outnumbered the British Expeditionary Force (the British Army) so heavily many new battalions were set up. These were called 'Pals Battalions' because the army promised that people who joined up together could serve together. The 'Cambridge Battalion' (the 11th battalion of the Suffolk Regiment) was made up of lots of people from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Many of them knew each other before the war. They were all volunteers.





The 11th Suffolks marching in France.

The History of the 'Cambridge Battalion' (11th Suffolks)



Uniform and Equipment



Bundles of bandages designed to be used by soldiers. It is called field dressing.



Two types of gas mask. The one on the right is a PH helmet and the one on the left is a box respirator. The box respirators were better but rarer.



A Lee Enfield .303 bolt action rifle. The standard rifle for the British army in WWI.

You could fire it 11 times without reloading.

(It could carry 10 rounds (bullets) in its magazine and could keep 1 round in the qun ('up the spout').)



A WWI bandolier. Each pouch held 10 rounds (bullets).



Mills bombs or hand grenades. You pulled out the pin and then it would explode 7 seconds later. Soldiers were to carry these to give to trained bombers. They weren't supposed to throw them themselves.

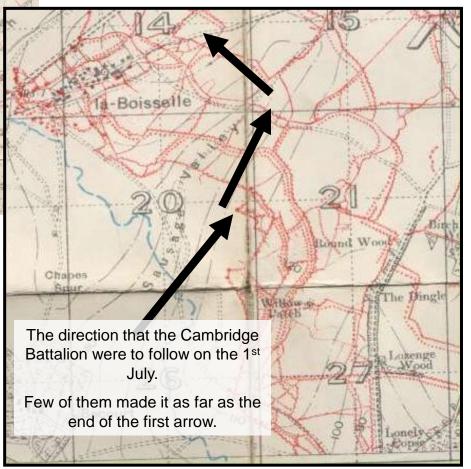


A trench shovel. It was quite short.

Uniform and Equipment

All soldiers were required to carry a 1:50,000 trench map.

This map is one that the Cambridge Battalion carried.



South of the German-held village of La Boiselle was Sausage Valley up which the Cambridge Battalion were to attack.

It was called Sausage Valley because British troops could see sausage-shaped German observation balloons at the end of it.

The idea was that the would turn North, cut off La Boiselle and capture the village.

Uniform and Equipment

The Plan

"Each Battalion will attack in 4 waves with 3 Companies. One platoon from each Company in each wave. 11 Suffolk will be known as D Battalion."

"D Battalion will pass through 10th Lincolns within two minutes of the barrage lifting. C Company will advance through Bailiff Wood along with B Co. C Company will consolidate Suffolk Redoubt and will call on D & B Co. if necessary. The remainder of the Battalion frontage will be consolidated along the German trench with Lewis [machine]guns at the fore. Cambridge Redoubt will be consolidated by one of the platoons of A Co. Selected men to push forward to see if Contalmaison has been evacuated."

"A mine will be exploded [at Lochnagar] - All ranks to be warned that the concussion [shockwaves] will be considerable."

Assembly

Wave 1 & 2 in Kingsgate Street and New Kingsgate Street.

Wave 3 & 4 in Dundee Avenue and New Cut B

Each Platoon to have 100 yard front

Bn HQ will be at the junction of Abroath Street and Dundee Avenue.

Aid post at Grieff Street

The first two Bns (15th Royal Scots and 10th Lincolns) will creep forward into nomans land under cover of the barrage ready to advance at zero hour. D Bn (Cambs Suffolks) will follow at 150 yards distance.)

Battalion HQ to be established in Bailiff Wood, machine guns to be established in Suffolk and Cambridge Redoubts.

The Orders Given to the Cambridge Battalion

Just before the attack...

'A man in the Cambridge Battalion went beserk [crazy]; his pals were ordered to hold him down until they went over the top and then to leave him.'

7:30 A.M. – the start of the attack.

'The long line of men came forward, rifles at the port [see picture] as ordered. Now Jerry started. His machineguns let fly. Down they all went. I could see them dropping one after another as the gun swept along them. The officer went down exactly the same time as the man behind him. Another minute or so and another wave came forward. Jerry was ready this time and this lot did not get so far as the others.'



(Private W.J. Senescall, The Cambridge Battalion.)

"Before the leading wave had advanced 100 yards, before the men had time to gain their proper formation, casualties began. Soon men were being spun round and were dropping everywhere. In spite of the casualties, the advance continued until the lines of men had been reduced to bands of three and four. These, joining together without regard for company or battalion, pushed on into the thick of the fight.

"By 8 a.m. the battle, as far as the 11th battalion was concerned, was practically decided. All that remained of their effort was a great mass of prostrate figures, thinning gradually towards the wire. Throughout the day little rushes were attempted by survivors, many of whom must have been already wounded. Occasionally a man was seen running singly till he fell."

Lieut-Col C.C.R. Murphy, History of the Suffolk Regiment 1914 - 1927 (1929)

Quotes and accounts

By mid-afternoon this soldier was hiding in a place nicknamed Sausage Valley in no-man's-land trying to get back to the British trenches.

'Then during the afternoon, Jerry started shelling no-man's-land in a zig-zag fashion to kill the rest of us off. As each shell landed they gave a burst of machine-gun fire over where it fell, to catch anyone who should jump up. As they worked towards me I knew when my shell was coming. Sure enough it came and landed a few yards behind me. Over came the bullets as well but I kept perfectly still.'

(Private W.J. Senescall, The Cambridge Battalion.)

This soldier had been trapped in no-man's-land in Sausage Valley all afternoon. He was waiting for darkness to escape back to the British trenches. He didn't want to get captured by the Germans.

'At long last, evening came and the light began to fade. I ventured a look forward and there was Jerry out of his trench, moving among the fallen. Now, I thought, I am going to Berlin too soon. That decided me; I jumped up and ran as best I could, for I was stiff. I kept treading on wounded and they called out to me for help. Jerry let me have a few more shots as I ran, but the light had gone now. Anyway, he couldn't hit me that day in daylight, could he?'

(Private W.J. Senescall, The Cambridge Battalion.)

15 officers and 512 men of the Cambridge Battalion, **almost half its strength**, were killed or wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Of the 750 Cambridgeshire men of the 11th Battalion who climbed out of their trenches at 7.30am on the 1st July 1916 691 were killed or wounded.

Quotes and accounts

BURLING	Harry	Waterbeach	Private 20501, 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment who was killed in action on Saturday, 1st July 1916. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 1 C and 2 A
COX	Ernest	Willingham	Pte 13661, 11th Bn Suffolk Regiment. 34th.Div. Killed in action near La Boiselle 1/7/16. Born Willingham. Enlisted Cambridge. Commemorated on The Thiepval Memorial MR. 21
DAY	Jack Uriah	Waterbeach	Sergeant, 13652, 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment who was killed in action on Saturday, 1st July 1916. Buried BAPAUME POST MILITARY CEMETERY, ALBERT, Somme, France. Grave: II. M. 9.
DAY	Walter	Waterbeach	Private, 20502, 11th Bn., Suffolk Regiment who was killed in action on Saturday, 1st July 1916. Commemorated on the THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 1 C and 2 A.
FROMANT	John Henry	Landbeach	Pte. 13795, 11th Bt., Suffolk Regt killed in action 1/7/1916, age 22, commemorated: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Son of Arthur and Mary A. Fromant, of Green End, Landbeach, Cambs. Born Quy, Cambs., enlisted Cambridge.
KIMPTON	Herbert	Cottenham	Private, 20589, 11th Suffolk Regiment, killed in action France/Flanders July 1 1916, age 36. Licensee of the Fountain public house from 1909, his wife carrying on the business in his absence. Son of Fred and Sarah Ann Kimpton. Husband of Louisa Kimpton. commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France.

Local Men Who Died on the First Day of the Somme

KNIGHTS	Cyril Reginald	Waterbeach	[Listed on SDGW as Reginald] Private 21712, 11th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, who died on 1st July 1916. Age 19. Born Waterbeach, enlisted Cambridge. Son of Mr and Mrs S Knights of Rosemary Hill, Waterbeach, Cambs. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
LONG	Frederick Charles	Landbeach	Pte. 21414, 11th Bt. Suffolk Reg., killed in action 1/7/1916, age 19, commemorated: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Son of Frederick and Emma Long, of Cottenham Rd., Landbeach, Cambs. Born Landbeach, Cambs., enlisted Cambridge.
POULTER (MM)	Smith Stevens	Willingham	Sgt, 13573, 11th Suffolk Rgt, Killed in action 1-7-16. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
PRIDHAM	Ernest Edward	Willingham	Pte, 13542, 11th Suffolk Regiment. Killed in action 1-7-16, age 18. Son of Lois Jane King (formerly Pridham), Rampton Rd, Willingham, & late Charles Pridham. Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Brother of above.
WORLAND	Harry	Cottenham	Private, 15633, 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, killed on the Somme July 1 1916, age 17. Buried Gordon Dump Cemetery near La Boiselle, France. Son of Fred and Eliza Worland, brother of Frank and Herbert.
WORLAND	Herbert	Cottenham	Private, 22162, 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, killed on the Somme July 1 1916, age 25. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France. Son of Fred and Eliza Worland, brother of Frank and Harry.

Local Men Who Died on the First Day of the Somme

"Just as we plan progression through all our classes, so we should plan progression through all our trips and outside-the-classroom learning opportunities in which students are engaged..."

Amy Wilson & George Hollis, TH126

"Battlesites and war memorials are striking reminders of past and changing national cultures and especially of the attitudes of those cultures towards war and remembrance."

Andrew Wrenn, TH 91



War is Declared!

- Readings and songs (local accounts, poems, Private Peaceful)
- Accounts of 1st July 1916: La Boisselle & 11th Suffolks
- Thiepval Memorial: 27 local men
- Beaumont Hamel
- Fricourt German Cemetery
- Gordon Dump Cemetery: Harry Worland
- Readings (poems, accounts)

Year 10/11: Berlin – theme of how to remember the past

