

## NOSTALGIA

# Help us to remember those affected by the Great War, 100 years on

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with Mike Dewey

AS READERS cannot fail to be aware, next year, 2014, is the centenary of the start of World War One, the Great War.

There cannot be many families in the country whose ancestors did not play a part in the conflict.

Those who made the ultimate sacrifice are remembered on the war memorials which continue to be honoured in the towns and vil-

lages throughout the country.

But how do we remember those who survived the conflict?

Many of those will have suffered life-changing injuries — physical or mental. Many will have undertaken heroic deeds, which may have been recognised at the time by the award of a medal for bravery, but they have no long-term memorial.

The Bucks Free Press is planning to initiate a project to record the lives of local men and woman who participated in and survived the conflict.

We recognise that this is a potentially mammoth project, which will

take several years to complete.

Therefore we invite local people to participate, by researching their ancestors who fought in the war. And we are also appealing to local organisations that would be prepared to research the lives of those who lived in the area.

For those willing to help, facilities at High Wycombe Library are available to assist in the research.

These include:

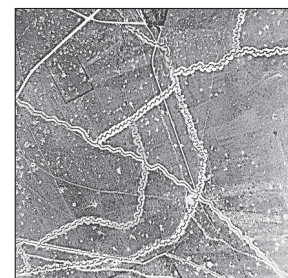
- Access to www.ancestry.com, which is free to use in the library.
- The Bucks Free Press on microfilm from the first edition in 1856.
- The General Registry Office

Index of civil registration of births, marriages and deaths, 1837 to 2004.

■ The Names Index database produced by the Bucks Family History Society (FHS) of events, including baptisms, marriages and burials in parish registers, occurring in Buckinghamshire.

Volunteers knowledgeable about this type of research are usually available at the library to provide advice and assistance on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and Thursday afternoons.

The volunteer on Thursday afternoons also has access to the full Bucks FHS databases.



Aerial view of a trench system in northern France in 1916.

## The World War One service of footballer Frank Adams

IN ORDER to indicate the sort of information that can be gleaned about World War One soldiers, I will, on occasions over the next few months, be recounting short histories of some local men who fought in WWI. We start with Frank Adams, who will be known to many readers as a footballer with Wycombe Wanderers and a major benefactor to the club, presenting them with Loakes Park in 1947.

Frank was born on September 5, 1891, one of seven children born to Edwin and Caroline Adams. He was only four when his father died as a result of drinking carbolic

acid by accident — he thought it was beer.

The family were left with only one breadwinner, Frank's eldest brother Ralph.

In 1903, Frank left school at 12 to serve an apprenticeship with local photographers Sweetlands, whose White House Studio was in High Street. In 1911, Frank joined the Territorial Army with the 1st Bucks Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. At the time, he was living with his mother and sister, Tilly, at 39 Oxford Street.

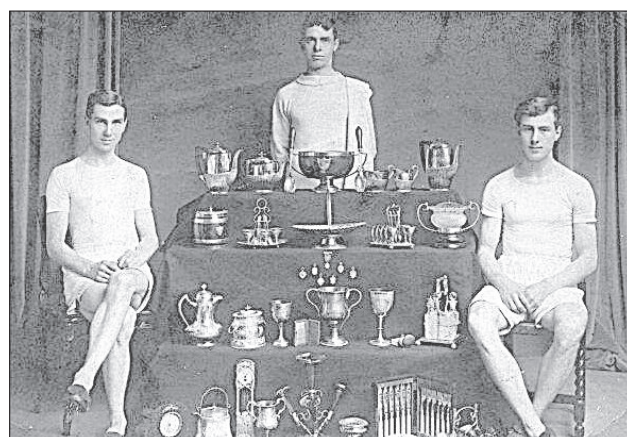
As a young man, Frank's main passion was sport. He was a keen

athlete and tennis player, but it is his prowess as a footballer that we particularly remember him today.

Initially his employment meant he was unable to play football on a Saturday. He therefore joined a local team playing in the Wednesday League — shops closed on a Wednesday afternoon at that time!

During the 1910-11 season, he was invited for a trial for Wycombe Wanderers at Loakes Park. After a string of good performances with the reserves he made his first team debut in the last Great Western Suburban League game of that season. The following season he cemented his place in the first team, usually playing at inside right. For the 1914-15 season he was elected team captain, but his career with the Wanderers was then interrupted by his service in WWI.

Shortly after the outbreak of WWI in July 1914, Frank enlisted in the Army and was posted to France as a Corporal on October 1, 1914. He was promoted to Sergeant on March 9, 1915. This was followed by a spell of home leave, during which he married Kathleen Whincup at All Saints Parish Church, on March 16, 1915. Kathleen was the daughter of farmer William Whincup, whose farm was at the top of Marlow Hill. Frank was discharged from the Army on



Three young athletes, including Frank Adams (far right), with a large collection of trophies and prizes, c.1910.

June 25, 1916, to join the 'Special List'. He was immediately appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in the newly-formed Royal Flying Corps. This was undoubtedly because of his experience as a photographer. At the time, the use of aircraft in the Western Front was primarily as 'spotters', and to photograph the enemy's trenches.

After hostilities ceased, Frank served as a Captain with the Army of Occupation in Germany, where he was able to demonstrate his organisational ability by arranging a number of football matches.

On January 22, 1919, he was "Mentioned for valuable service in connection with the War", and with

a "Press Mention". He was discharged on June 25, 1919.

During his military service Frank took every opportunity to play football and once scored the only goal when the RAF played Athletic Bilbao. It was to mark the opening of their new stadium, and was played in front of Spain's king and queen.

We will continue with the story of Frank's life, including his service in WWII and how he came to donate Loakes Park to Wycombe Wanderers, in a future edition.

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Frank Adams (far right) on home leave, with the Morris family at Booker Farm, Booker, c.1916.

## READERS' FEEDBACK

### Nurse Doris helped heal scalded leg

READER Trevor Lovett rang in to say that he recognised his Aunt Doris Lovett in the picture of the winners of the Red Cross Hetherington Cup in the Bucks Free Press edition of July 16. She is the nurse second from the right in the picture. Trevor has particularly fond memories of Doris because of an accident he had in 1947, when Doris was living with his family in Chapel Road, Sands.

In the scullery of the house, the 'copper' (for the benefit of younger readers, this was the name given at that time to the vessel used to boil clothing — no washing machines then!) was built into a corner of the room. Trevor, then aged about five, used to play at painting the wall above it. One day, he slipped and his leg was immersed in the boiling water.

After lifting him out, his mother removed

the sock from his leg and, in doing so, promptly removed all the skin.

The doctor was summoned but Trevor refused to allow him to treat the wound — he only trusted Doris to do it. So for the next few weeks, Doris would replace the dressing two or three times each day, once in the morning before she went to work, again after returning home, and usually a third time before bed.

During this time Trevor could not go to bed himself. He had to sleep sitting in a chair with his leg resting on a stool. Trevor made a complete recovery and there is not a single mark on his leg.

Doris was a chargehand at Harrison's, the security printers, and was presented to the Queen when HRH visited there in November 1952.



The Wycombe Wanderers team for the 1919/20 season. Frank Adams is second from the left in the front row.