

Thomas William Dilworth enlisted in Warwick and went to France on 23rd February 1915 and died of wounds on 20th June 1915. No mention of Thomas has been found in local newspapers except a possible mention in a letter from Sgt. Albert Overton, also of the 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who was killed in action on 25th September 1915. A week before he had written to his parents and said "We have had quite a few Kenilworth fellows in our lines since we came out here, and one, Fred Dilworth, who was in my platoon, had a nasty wound about six weeks ago". This must be a reference to Thomas William Dilworth, perhaps Fred was a "nickname". There was no Fred Dilworth in Kenilworth (there was an Alfred Dilworth but he did not join up until 1916 and served with the Royal Engineers). This reference to a nasty wound would have been around the time Thomas William died of wounds. His name does not appear to be on any other local war memorials.

**HUBBARD, William: Private, 4044,
Royal Defence Corps,
previously Royal Warwickshire Regiment.**

Died 24 February 1919, age 58. Buried in Kenilworth Cemetery, C. 855.

William was an 'old' soldier, enlisting in 1881, having served in Gibraltar, Egypt & India in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882. He was originally with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment but later transferred to the Royal Defence Corps.

The Hubbard family had lived in Kenilworth since the early 19th century. William was born in the town and was baptised at St Nicholas Church on 29th September 1861. He married Emma Colin in 1889 and in 1901 they are living with their seven children at 81 Albion Street and he is working as a general labourer at the Cake Mills. In 1911 he and his family are living at 85 Albion St, Kenilworth, and he is working as a bricklayer.

When war broke out he was recalled with the reserves (aged 52) and put on garrison duty. At one stage in the war two of his sons were also serving in the Army with one receiving a Military Medal. They both survived the war but William's nephew, Arthur James Hubbard, died from wounds received at Gaza in 1917. He is commemorated on Kenilworth War Memorial.

William did not serve overseas. In September 1917 he was reported to be on Salisbury Plain. He was discharged from the Army on 5th November 1918, suffering from rheumatic arthritis and died from pneumonia on 24th February 1919, aged 58. His death was acknowledged as war related and he has a Commonwealth War Graves headstone in Kenilworth Cemetery. He has not been found on any other local war memorials.

**THAKE, Frank Bernard: Driver 960718,
6th Reserve Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.**

Died 3rd March 1921, age 28. Buried in St Augustine Roman Catholic Churchyard. His name is also on the Loyal Dudley Lodge of Oddfellows' list of those who died in the war.

Frank was born in Streatham. In 1911 he is living with his family in Shepherd's Bush and working as a butcher. He and his younger brother George enlisted together in the Royal Field Artillery, George as Gunner 960717 and Frank as Driver 960718.



They went to France together on the 18th March 1915. George was injured at Cambrai in January 1918 and was sent home to recover. Frank was discharged from the Army on 15th July 1919 through sickness. He had married Katherine Mary Wright from Fieldgate Lane, Kenilworth on 30th October 1918. He died on the 3rd March 1921 and is buried in St Augustine Roman Catholic Churchyard. His death was acknowledged as war related and he has a Commonwealth War Graves headstone.

**WOODFIELD, John William: Company Sergeant
Major, 265032, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.**

Died 20 March 1921, aged 29. Buried in Kenilworth Cemetery, B.669.

John was born in Warwick in 1891 and grew up there. In 1911 he is living at 9 North Rock, Saltisford, with his widowed mother and younger brother and was working as a grocery warehouseman. He went to France on the 22nd March 1915 with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and served throughout the war being promoted from Private to Company Sergeant Major. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) in June 1918 "in recognition of valuable services rendered with the Forces in Italy" (London Gazette 3rd June 1918).

He was discharged from the Army on 29th September 1919 and married Margery Bates from Kenilworth on 24th May 1920. They lived at 3 Arthur St, Kenilworth. He died on 20th March 1921 and is buried in Kenilworth Cemetery. His death was acknowledged as war related and he has a Commonwealth War Graves headstone. He has not been found on any other local war memorial.

Research & recommendations by Kenilworth Historian Sue Tall.
Front page photograph by Betty Sunley.
Further information, including full documentation of the research at kenilworth-war-memorial.org.uk.
See also: *Kenilworth and the Great War* by Sue Tall and Betty Sunley, available from the Kenilworth Bookshop.

**Kenilworth War Memorial
3rd November 2018
Dedication of Six New Names**



DILWORTH, T.W.
FOLEY, T.L.
HANCOX, W.J.

HUBBARD, W.
THAKE, F.B.
WOODFIELD, J. W.

**In preparation for the Centenary of Armistice Day,
11th November 1918**

**Service conducted by
Father Kevin Hooper
& Reverend James Martin**

**in the presence of
The Kenilworth Royal British Legion
Chairman: George Illingworth**

**and representatives of the families of the soldiers
commemorated on this day**

HANCOX, William Jonathan: Lance Corporal 5595, Scots Guards.

Born Kenilworth. Enlisted Southampton. Resided Kenilworth. Killed in action 14th September 1914, France & Flanders. Commemorated on La Ferte-Sous-Jouane Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France. Aged 28. Son of Mr Jonathan Hancox, Windy Arbour, Kenilworth.

In the Coventry Herald and Kenilworth Advertiser newspapers (10th October 1914), William is acknowledged as the first Kenilworth man to be killed in the war. He was born in Kenilworth in 1887 and baptised at St John's Church in February 1887. His family had lived in the town since the 1840s, his grandfather coming here as a railway labourer and his own father being a railway

platelayer. Alongside his two brothers and three sisters, he lived and grew up in a terraced house in Windy Arbour.

He joined the Scots Guards about 1905 and returned to Kenilworth whilst on leave. After 8 years service, he left to join the police force at Woolwich where he married his wife Hannah in 1912. On the outbreak of war as a reservist he was called up to his old regiment and left for France with the British Expeditionary Force, on the 13th August 1914. He was killed in action just over a month later on 14th September 1914. He was 28 years old and left a widow and a little boy of two years.

It's very strange why his name was not put forward for the Kenilworth War Memorial. The town clerk kept a list of all men from Kenilworth who enlisted and marked those who

had died. The parish church of St Nicholas also kept a roll of honour of all men from the town who died in the war, regardless of religion or Parish. These two lists were amalgamated and the local newspaper asked for families to put names forward so they could all be included on the war memorial. Why William's family did not put his name forward is a mystery. His name is not on either the St. Nicholas or St. John's war memorial plaques. His mother had died in 1901 but there was his father and other members of the family still living in the town. Maybe they thought he would be on a memorial near where he lived with his wife. Searches of police memorials and around the area they lived have produced no listing of William.

William still has relatives in the town and further afield and they have made it known that they think he should be on the memorial. Relatives attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Kenilworth War Memorial in 2014 when his name was read out with all the other Kenilworth men who had died in 1914.

FOLEY, Timothy Laurence: Corporal 532, 2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Killed in action 27th October 1914, aged 23. Buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, XXXIII.E.17. Son of Louisa Foley, 77 School Lane, Kenilworth.

Timothy was born in Colchester in 1891, the son of Timothy and Louisa Foley. He had two brothers and a sister. In 1901 he is living with his family at 27 Chelsea Road, Colchester and in 1911 had already enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a drummer and is at the Whittington Barracks, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

The connection with Kenilworth occurs through his sister Louisa, born 1881. In 1903 at Colchester she marries George Leonard Wilday – who on the 1901 census is an infantry soldier at the Colchester Garrison. He had been born in Coventry in 1876, baptised at St John's Church, Kenilworth on 3rd September 1876, and had enlisted into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1894. It was probably through him that Timothy Foley enlisted in the same regiment. George and Louisa Wilday had two daughters born in Colchester, Cecilia Mary in 1905 and Jane in 1908, and then moved to Kenilworth.

They are on the 1911 census living at 77 School Lane, Kenilworth and George was working as a railway carman. They had a further

daughter, Phyllis Esther in Kenilworth in 1912. Timothy's father died in Colchester in the spring of 1914 and his mother, Louisa, came to live with her daughter and family in School Lane, Kenilworth, soon after. Timothy would also have lived in Kenilworth whilst on leave.

The family were Catholics and attended St. Austin's church. In a special issue of the Catholic Magazine, St. Austin's Roll of Honour, published in the Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser on 14th August 1915, it includes "Corpl. Timothy Foley (RWR) who was killed on October 23rd last." They didn't get the date quite right – he was actually killed on October 27th, although initially he was reported as an unknown soldier, but was later identified by the number on his boots, and reburied in Tyne Cot Cemetery. By the time he was killed he had risen in rank from Drummer to Corporal.

The 2nd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment was based in Malta on the outbreak of war on 4th August 1914. The battalion embarked for the UK and joined the 22nd Brigade in the 7th Division at Lyndhurst, Hampshire. The battalion embarked to join the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, landing at Zeebrugge on 6th October 1914. The 2nd Battalion was thrown into the thick of it, for by the 31st October 1914 its strength had been reduced to just over 100 all ranks (from the establishment of over 1,000). Cpl Foley would seem to have been killed in an unsuccessful attack on enemy positions south of Cheluveldt.

Timothy still has family living in Kenilworth. If he had survived the war he would probably have come to Kenilworth to live with his mother and sister. However, his mother did not live in the town until 1914 and he was a Catholic, while the names for the war memorial were mostly taken from those already recorded at St. Nicholas Parish Church.

DILWORTH, Thomas William: Private 1319, 2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire.

Born Kenilworth. Enlisted Warwick. Resided Kenilworth. Died of wounds 20th June 1915, France & Flanders. Buried in Longuerie (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

The Dilworth family had lived in Kenilworth since the late 18th century. Thomas William was born in Kenilworth in 1893, although no baptism has been found. In 1891 his parents, William and Sarah Jane Dilworth, lived in Dickenson's Yard, The Square, Kenilworth, but by 1901 they had moved to Whitley, Coventry, with 5 children. His father, William, was a waggoner on a farm. Later that year they are living in Bubbenhall but are back in Kenilworth, living at Bulkington Cottages, by 1909. On the 1911 census they are living on Rosemary Hill, Kenilworth. Thomas's father was now a Waggon Builder and Thomas an assistant groom. The family are not listed in the 1912 or 1914 Kenilworth directories so may have moved again. The fact that his family moved so often may be the reason he is not on Kenilworth war memorial. His first cousin Albert E Dilworth, who lived in Kenilworth and was killed in action in 1918, has his name on the war memorial.

Corporal Hancox Killed.

Kenilworth Soldier's End in Battle.



The first Kenilworth man to be killed in action is Corporal William J. Hancox, son of Mr. Jonathan Hancox, of Windy Arbour, Kenilworth. After eight years' service in the Second Scots Guards, Mr. Hancox left the Army about a year ago and joined the Police Force at Woolwich. On the outbreak of war he was recalled to the Colours, and left for the scene of action with the First Battalion Scots Guards.

The sad news of his death on the battle field came through to his home last Saturday, but details are lacking. He was only twenty-eight years of age, and of splendid physique. He leaves a widow and a little boy only two years of age.

It is a sad thing that the dead soldier's father has lost two of his three sons in recent times. His second son, Sidney, was fatally injured by a motor-car about two years ago.

Coventry Herald, 10th October 1914

