

Summerstown 182  
**GREAT ESCAPES**

# FIRST WORLD WAR 'REMEMBRANCE WALK'

(2.5 miles, (50-60 mins)

Start at **ST MARY'S CHURCH, WIMBLEDON ROAD, SW17**



GARRATT LANE

BURTOP ESTATE

ANGLO-AMERICAN LAUNDRY

ABOYNE ESTATE

TESCO  
CORNER PIN

ROBERT SADLER PLAQUE

DAFFODIL KING PLAQUE

STREATHAM CEMETERY

WIMBLEDON STADIUM

ST MARY'S CHURCH

HOLBORN ESTATE ALMSHOUSES

GARRATT LANE

HAZELHURST ESTATE

SMALLWOOD SCHOOL

LAMBETH CEMETERY

1914-1918  
**SUMMERSTOWN  
182**

182 MEN FROM THE PARISH OF ST MARY'S, SUMMERSTOWN, LONDON SW17, KILLED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

# 'FIRST WORLD WAR REMEMBRANCE WALK'

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SUMMERSTOWN182 (2.5 miles, allow 50-60 mins)

Devised to help everybody through the lockdown, these downloadable maps take in significant features of historical interest for you to enjoy on walks in the **Tooting/Earlsfield/Wandsworth/Wimbledon** area. There are now multiple flavours of Summerstown182 'Great Escapes' to choose from, every one a winner! **Perfect for mind, body and spirit.**

Summerstown182

**GREAT ESCAPES**

The war memorial in St Mary's Church, Summerstown bears the names of 182 individuals whose lives were lost in the 1914-18 conflict. Most of them lived no more than five minutes walk from the church. To mark the centenary, their stories were researched and documented by an award-winning project which climaxed two years ago with the memorable 'Stripes of Peace'. These are just some of them.

**1 START ST MARY'S CHURCH, Wimbledon Road, SW17** - Built in 1904, the church replaces an earlier one located near The Corner Pin which had to be demolished due to subsidence. A tablet at the entrance marking where the foundation stone was laid holds a bottle with the names of **600 local children** some of whom are undoubtedly on the war memorial behind it. Summerstown was always viewed as a poor area, liable to flooding. Charles Booth described it as 'a region of mists, low-lying on heavy clay soil, exceedingly depressing one should suppose to health, as it undoubtedly is to the imagination'. The poet Edward Thomas, himself killed at Arras in 1917 viewed it as 'more suitable for vegetables than men' when he cycled through in 1913, observing 'a mixture of the sordid and the delicate'. The 'Absent Voters Lists' suggest that over 5,000 local men and boys served in the First World War. The carnage in these Summerstown streets was just the tip of an enormous iceberg.

**2** Next to the church is Keble Street, built around the same time. Four of the names on the war memorial lived here. At No29 was **Harold Glassett** tragically lost on a North Sea submarine ten days before the end of the war. At No30, **William McMullan** was a gardener, one of 26 of the Summerstown182 killed at the Battle of the Somme. A few doors away from him at No16 **William Moorhouse** died in the Belgian mud, one of half a million casualties of the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. At No7 **Fred Barnes** a bandsman in the Royal Scots Fusiliers was one of the early victims of the conflict. He died fighting alongside **Indian soldiers** in the defence of Ypres in October 1914.

**3** Turn right onto Garratt Lane and cross at the bus-stop. At No823 lived **William Clay** baker and father of four, whose story in the **Wandsworth Guardian** kickstarted this project. He died in Belgium and his name is on the Menin Gate 'Memorial to the Missing' in Ypres, one of 55,000 whose bodies were never recovered from the battlefields.

**4** Take a left into Huntspill Street. No39 was the home of a Sunday school teacher at St Mary's called **William Mace**, killed at Festubert in 1915 whilst tending to a wounded comrade. With **James Jenner Crozier** and Albert Gibson, he was one of **three Sunday school teachers** whose names are on a separate tablet which was lost for a number of years, recovered and recently restored. The job of a Sunday School teacher at that time was more akin to a social worker, administering to the needs of over 600 children.

**5** On the corner at No28 lived the Ibbott family. The St Mary's parish magazines indicate they were great sportsmen. Frank, the top scorer in the football team was seriously injured but survived the war. His brother **William Ibbott**, the captain of the cricket team was one of almost one million men who died on the **Somme battlefields**. His name is one of nine of the Summerstown182 on the immense Thiepval memorial.

**6** Take a right into Bellw Street. Half way down at No18, three soldiers living here at different times all lost their lives in the war. This indicates as much as anything how regularly families moved around in this area, with one often living upstairs and another below. The saddest story is that of **Henry Olive** who had just turned 16 when he died of his injuries at hospital in Rochester in 1915. The youngest of the Summerstown182, his name is remembered on his parents grave in Streatham Cemetery. Also resident here later were **Ernest Haywood** who perished in 1916 and **Henry Geater** in 1918.

**7** Turn left onto Aboyne Road, then left again into Square Street. At No17 lived **Reginald Knight**. He died of illness in 1918 and is buried in Ferozpur in the Punjab. Thanks to Twitter and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission his descendants were able to see **photos of his grave**. His family lived at the address until the 1960's.

**8** Take a right at the end of Square Street, back onto Huntspill Street. Turn left at Garratt Green and follow the path into a recently constructed housing estate which was once the location of **Robert Sadler's 'pedestrian' running ground** in the mid-19th century. Some time after that a cottage here was home to **Henry Briggs**, a sailor lost on HMS Barham at the Battle of Jutland. This was a sad day in Summerstown with five other local men killed on the last day of May 1916 in one of the biggest naval battles in history. Another of them was a 17 year old from Garratt Lane called Percy Newman.

**9** Follow the road out of the estate with the Anglo-American Laundry to your right. Take a moment to admire this extraordinary building managed by for almost 30 years by the redoubtable Alice Creeke. One of the largest employers of women in the area, their generous donation helped raise funds to secure the building of the war memorial.

**10** Follow Burmester Road to the right onto Franche Court Road. Nine men on the war memorial lived here including the only officer among the Summerstown182, 19 year old **Lieutenant Arthur Pickworth** from No43. He almost certainly knew **Arthur Clarke** next door at No45 who died on the Somme aged 18. Turn left heading towards Garratt Lane. On your right are the homes of council employee **Frank Tutty** at No11 and fishmonger **Samuel Tickner** at No7, one of four of the Summerstown182 who served in the Royal Flying Corps. Honeylight Computers on the corner of Garratt Lane was the site of the family fish shop. **Phillip Chapman** at 3a Franche Court Road had emigrated to Australia in search of a better life. He was wounded at Gallipoli at the battle of Lone Pine and was taken by hospital ship to Alexandria where he died.

**11** On the left hand side of the road, No2 was home to **Thomas Kirkland** who died on HMS Hogue in September 1914. One of the first great mass losses of life of the conflict, he perished along with 1,459 others when three cruisers; The Hogue, The Cressy and The Aboukir were sunk by a submarine off the Hook of Holland. A few doors down from him, Belfast-born Samuel McMullan's connection with the town of **Clonmel** in Co Tipperary explains the stone plinth on the house. A horse-keeper at the laundry, he lost his life on the Somme in 1916. Back on Garratt Lane, consider the lighting shop across the road. This was once the site of the terraced home of Paris-born waiter **Louis Danzanvilliers**, a small man who joined one of the 'bantam' regiments, he was killed at Passchendaele.

**12** Follow the road up to Burntwood Lane and cross at the traffic lights. Facing you is the Burtop Estate. This dates from the early 70's and before that was a cluster of terraced streets washed away when the Wandle burst its banks in 1968. **The Lost**

**Streets of Earlsfield**; Turtle Road, Headworth Street, Burtop Road and Maskell Road were home to at least 26 of the Summerstown182. Turn back on yourself and pass along the edge of the estate, turning right onto Maskell Road. Consider the stories of some of the lads who lived in these humble houses. 'Wild Colonial Boy' **Alfred Chipperfield** had also emigrated but came back to fight with the Australian Infantry. **Percy Littlefield** a 'cricket field horse driver' who died of malaria at Salonika. Only six out of 1,021 survived when HMS Invincible went down at the Battle of Jutland. **George Rudge** was one of the unlucky ones. **Albert Stewart** died at the Battle of Arras in 1917. As the 'Lost Streets' were evacuated over half a century later, his sister Violet is mentioned in a newspaper report as being rescued from her home in Maskell Road.

**13** Turn left at the end of Maskell Road and follow St Martin's Way towards the new Wimbledon Stadium development. The Riverside estate to your right was home to Hugh Stevenson's 'Corruganza' box factory, employing up to 2,000 people at this time. Take a left onto Riverside Road. The Corner Pin pub is connected to the deeply moving story of box factory worker **Albert Clarke**, his brother David and barmaid Daisy Drew. A story beautifully recreated by pupils at Burntwood School as part of our lottery funded project.

**14** Take a right onto Summerstown. Almost opposite the pub was an address associated with **Thomas Earl** whose two gallantry medals make him the most decorated of the Summerstown182. Next to the Corner Pin, a very old cottage, currently painted grey was once the home of another member of the Royal Flying Corps, **Henry Wright**, who died 'in an accident' whilst training in Redcar. The winding road of Summerstown, the centre of the original Wandle village, now shaded by the new development, is the spiritual heart of the Summerstown182. At least 17 of them lived on this road which was largely cleared of its flood-damaged slum housing in the late 50's. The site of By the Horns was the home of 'Balloon Man' **Thomas Milton**. It was also home to tragic **William Norris**, a soldier who came home on leave to find his wife had left him and threw himself under a tram outside the Fountain pub. Several of the soldiers came from families who worked with horses and had romany connections. Like **John Henry Wood**, the **Hammonds** and blacksmith **Henry Ward**. From a very different world in Upper Tooting came **William Brown**.

**15** At the end of Summerstown, take a left, past the old White Lion pub. Cross Wimbledon road and proceed down Blackshar Road towards St George's Hospital. This was the Grove Military Hospital during the War. Among those who passed away there was **John Barber** who died of appendicitis in 1917. On your left is Alfred Hurley House. Two soldiers who lived along this stretch were **Percy Cowles** another local man who had emigrated and returned with the Australian Infantry. **Fred Parker** was in the Post Office Rifles. Many of his personal mementoes were donated to the Imperial War Museum including his photo and embroidered postcards sent to him in France by his sister.

**16** Take the second left into Worslade Road. Half way down on the right, No14 was home to the very large **Matcham family** whose connection with this house endured until the 1980's. Two brothers Ernest and William were killed in the conflict.

**17** Turn right onto Alston Road, facing you is No18, home to the **Baseley brothers**. Over to the right is **Frank Townsend's greengrocer's shop** at No49. **William Warman**, a stretcher bearer who saved 30 lives and died in a POW camp in Germany lived at No51. Cross into Rostella Road, passing over Pevensy Road and turn left onto Thurso Street.

**18** This little road saw proportionally more loss of life than any other in this area. On your right at No13 **Charles Jeffries** who worked for the Board of Trade on Whitehall was raised with 11 siblings. He died in hospital in Birmingham in 1917. Across the road, at No12, three members of the Tibbenham family, **Spencer**, his brother **Eric** and cousin **Herbert** are all on the war memorial. Two doors along **three Seager brothers** at No8 were killed in successive years; William in 1915, Ernest in 1916, Edward in 1917. The story of how a fourth **Sidney survived** took us to Newport Pagnell in search of the young officer who died in the act of saving him. At No2, **Arthur and William Mace** were both discharged from the army due to illness and subsequently died of TB. 18 year old William, who does not have official CWGC recognition and is buried in an unmarked grave in Streatham Cemetery was commemorated in a 'remembrance' there on the centenary of his death.

**19** Take a left into Smallwood Road and look for the Schoolkeeper's house on the other side of the road. Here once lived **Francis Halliday** lost at sea early in the war on an overloaded ship called HMS Clan McNaughton. At least 40 of the Summerstown182 attended **Smallwood School** and the names of some are preserved in a booklet printed in 1916 which is a roll call of 450 'old smalls currently serving'. It was very fitting that the school participated in our centenary project.

**20** Take a right into Hazelhurst Road. Facing the school is the site where a V2 rocket killed 35 people in November 1944. Among them was the widow of **William Pitts** killed near Arras in 1917, whose medals were kept in a cloth bag on the back of the door of the outside toilet. **Horace Woodley** at No26 and Walter Tappin from Fountain Road fought in Palestine and are buried in Jerusalem. **Edward Foley** from Foss Road is pictured in one of the most famous photographs from the Somme battlefield. On the corner opposite the towers, No55 was home to **Horatio Nelson Smith**, who died on the Somme aged 17. At least 30 of the Summerstown182 lived in Hazelhurst and adjoining Foss Road, two of the poorest streets in an already deprived area. At No10 lived the Daniell and Jewell families, 16 people in one small house. 53 year old **George Nathaniel Daniell**, a veteran of colonial wars in Sudan and South Africa was the oldest of the Summerstown182, killed at Messines in May 1917. His son Frank, a Grenadier Guard died a few months later. **Fred Jewell** was also killed that year. On a memorable day we brought his 100 year old nephew, born two years before Fred's death to St Mary's to see the war memorial.

**21** Back onto Wimbledon Road, a parade of 1970's convenience stores faces the church. At No17 lived **Charles Richmond**, a member of the St Mary's choir killed at Arras. **Thomas Carrigan's home** was on the site of the Tasty Chicken shop. A leather worker who endured the 'Siege of Kut' in Mesopotamia (Iraq), he is buried near Istanbul.

**22** Cross the road and at No44 **Fred Buckland** was one of a family of ten. His father was a silversmith and after the War received an inscribed gold signet ring made for Fred and lost by him shortly before his death at the Somme. It had been found by another soldier whose sister had placed a notice in a newspaper.

Sincere apologies that lack of space has forbidden me from including all the stories on this walk. They are however all there to read on the **Summerstown182 Roll of Honour**.

FOR INFORMATION AND MORE WALKS: [summerstown182.wordpress.com](http://summerstown182.wordpress.com)  @summerstown182

If you enjoy your walk, please consider making a donation to CriticalNHS, sustaining local business by keeping the St George's frontline staff fed [www.criticalnhs.org](http://www.criticalnhs.org)