

De Laune Cycling Club



1914
F. CREED
W. ENGLAND
W. W. WEBSTER

1939
R. G. BARNES
R. BRISLEY
N. B. FARROW
A. MC GREGOR

1918
P. J. TIBBELS
A. WILLIAMS
HON. SEC.

1945
L. BERETTA
S. EDMONDS
G. W. HINDE
R. NEALE

B. PALASTANGA

IN MEMORIA AWA SERE RE CO DE BY DE DE LAUNE CYCLING CLUB IN MEMORY OF THEIR MEMBERS AXE OF DE LAUNE

Doubtless many people having only given a cursory glance of the above memorial plaque, when passing the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul at the village of Newnham near Faversham, Kent, have thought it to be the village tribute to local victims of war, or of members of the church congregation, as opposed to it being that of a London based Cycling Club. Way back in 1582 the French Huguenot Physician and Cleric, William Delaune, fled with his family to England. In 1625 one of his two sons, Gideon Delaune, who had accumulated great wealth whilst he was the Apothecary to H.M. Queen Anne, purchased Sharsted Court at Newnham for his son Abraham. The house was later transformed into the impressive mansion it is now by Colonel William Delaune in 1711. Many years later, Sharsted Court was inherited by Chapman Delaune Faunce Esq, who strengthened the existing bond between the Faunce and Delaune families by eventually styling himself Chapman Delaune Faunce-De Laune. Chapman was a High Sheriff of Kent, a Magistrate and a man of substance who owned land and properties in Kent and South London. De Laune Street and Faunce Street which are both in the London Borough of Southwark are named after the family, and are where Chapman De Laune owned properties and land. As the direct result of the generosity of Chapman De Laune, combined with his passionate involvement in sporting activities by (primarily) young people, the De Laune Institute came into being with Chapman as its first President, and during the spring of 1889 the De Laune Institute Cycling Club was founded. De Laune family members continued to support and be involved with the cycling club for many years, and during the Great War, Mrs. Margaret Faunce De Laune (née Jamieson); the wife of Captain Alured Faunce De Laune sent many personal gifts to members of the cycling club who were serving in the armed forces. Following the cessation of the Great War, the cycling club held a reunion dinner and concert, at which time the question of how best to remember those who had lost their lives in the conflict was raised, and during the discussion, it was decided that the suggestion by one of the members for a suitable memorial plaque be acted upon. Another of the club members who was a Stone Mason carved the five names of the Great War casualties on the plaque shown above. The memorial plaque was unveiled on Easter Sunday 1920 by Captain Alured Faunce-De Laune, and was blessed by the Reverend Thomas Greenland, in the presence of club members, the church congregation, invited guests and a not insignificant number of the local populace, including several people who were employed by the Faunce-De Laune family. Also amongst those in attendance at the ceremony was Major Edmund Faunce-De Laune of The Calico House, Newham, who had been badly wounded during the Great War whilst serving as an officer in the 2/1st Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles. After the Second World War, the names of the nine members of the club who had lost their lives during that conflict were added to the memorial plaque, which was rededicated by the Reverend Frank F. Dardis during the service to commemorate all the 14 club members.

The Great War

1914 -1919

ENGLAND, WILLIAM. Private, G/24603.
7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died Saturday 16 March 1918. Aged 36.
Born and enlisted Lambeth, Surrey. Enlisted Brixton, Surrey.
Son of Mrs. E. England of 26, Bramal Road, Brixton, London.
Buried Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Seraucourt-le-Grand, Aisne, France.
Grave Ref: VI. I. 11.
Formerly Private, 10764, Royal Sussex Regiment.

REED, FRANK CHARLES. Rifleman, 2475.
1st/16th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles).
Died Thursday 17 June 1915.
Born and resided Mitcham, Surrey. Enlisted Westminster, London.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 54.

TIBBELS, PERCIVAL JOHN. Rifleman, 2478.
1st/16th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles).
Died Friday 22 October 1915. Aged 25.
Born and resided Kensington. Enlisted Westminster, London.
Son of John and Florence Amelia Tibbels of 1, Doddington Grove, Kennington, London.
Buried Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: W. 22.

WEBSTER, WALTER HENRY. D.S.O. Second Lieutenant.
4th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).
Died Saturday 10 February 1917.
Buried Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: I. J. 14.
Walter was mortally wounded and captured on Friday 9 February 1917 whilst commanding Lewis Gun teams, and succumbed to his wounds whilst in enemy hands the following day.

WILLIAMS, ARTHUR. Lance Corporal, G/13747.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Friday 22 March 1918. Aged 33.
Born Lambeth, Surrey. Enlisted London. Resided Walworth, Surrey.
Son of Thomas and Priscilla Williams of 55, Cathles Road, Balham, London.
Buried Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: III. J. 26.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

BARNES, ROBERT GEORGE. Private, 14640500.
8th Battalion, Parachute Regiment, Army Air Corps.
Died Saturday 24 March 1945. Aged 19.
Born South West London. Resided Birmingham.
Buried Reichwald Forest Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.
Grave Ref: 37. C. 11.

BERETTA, LEONARD. Civilian casualty.
Died Thursday 26 September 1940. Aged 39.
Husband of Gladys Bertha June Beretta (née Shean).
Leonard and his 33 year old wife Gladys, who was a member of the Womens Voluntary Service, were killed during an air raid as they took refuge together in a shelter at their home, 85 Kenley Road, Merton Park, Surrey, when a bomb fell which exploded in the garden next door which caused their shelter to collapse under the resulting debris.

BRISLEY, ROLAND DOUGLAS. Gunner, 998358.
138 Field Regiment Royal Artillery.
Died Wednesday 3 November 1943. Aged 23.
Born and resided South West London.
Son of Frederick Charles Brisley and Lydia Georgina Brisley of Camberwell, London.
Buried Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XV. E. 4.

EDMONDS, STANLEY CHARLES. Sergeant, 6912872.
8th (2nd Battalion, The London Rifle Brigade) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died Monday 26 June 1944. Aged 32.
Born South East London. Resided London.
Son of William J. Edmonds and Florence M. E. Edmonds (née Cushion) of Rotherhithe, London.
Buried St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France.
Grave Ref: XIII. E. 2.
Pre war member of the Rifle Brigade.

FARROW, NORMAN.

Royal Army Service Corps.

Died 1946.

Norman died as the result of an illness which he had contracted whilst serving in the Royal Army Service Corps, when he had been stationed in the Middle East theatre during the Second World War. At the time of his death Norman had been discharged from His Majesty's Forces, but as his death was resultant of his military service, and occurred prior to the cut-off date for Second World War related deaths on 31 December 1947, www.kentfallen.com is in the process of gathering more supporting documentation etcetera appertaining to Norman, prior to submitting an application for him to at long last be officially commemorated as a casualty of the Second World War, to the Commonwealth War graves Commission. **Any** additional information which can be furnished by an individual or organisation would be most welcome, to assist us in building a tangible irrefutable case for Norman's belated commemoration.

HINDE, GEOFFREY WILLIAM. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 175573.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 550 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Monday 22 May 1944. Aged 21.

Son of Walter and Annie Hinde of Didsbury, Manchester, Lancashire.

Buried Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: IVa. E. 17.

McGREGOR, ALEXANDER PERCY. Sergeant, 917519.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 86 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Monday 24 November 1941. Aged 41.

Son of Percy Douglas McGregor and of Florence McGregor of New Donnington, Telford, Shropshire.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 47.



NEALE, RONALD ST CLAIR.

Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), 1375564.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 50 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Saturday 15 November 1941. Aged 21.
Son of William Frank and Agnes Mary Neale of Highbury, London.
Husband of Matilda Caroline Neale.
Buried Newark-upon-Trent Cemetery, London Road, Nottinghamshire.
Grave Ref: Section G. Grave 304.



PALASTANGA, BERNARD WILLIAM. Sergeant (Observer), 933248.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 408 Royal Canadian Air Force Squadron.
Died Friday 7 November 1941. Aged 21.
Born Southwark, London 4 July 1920.
Son of William Joseph Palastanga, and of Dora Palastanga (née Clee) of
Hollington, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.
Buried Hindeloopen Protestant Churchyard, IJsselmeer (Zuyder Zee),
Netherlands. Grave Ref: Plot B. Row 13. Grave 5.
The photograph of Bernard's headstone as shown above is by Rob van Voorst.