

**The World War I collection
from
The Pembroke Arms
Fovant.**



Then



Now

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The Badges on the Hill



At the outbreak of World War 1 there was an urgent need to accommodate the increased requirement for military training camps. Towards the end of 1914, John Combes, of East Farm, Fovant, was informed that part of his land was to be requisitioned for one such camp. Subsequently lands to the east and west of East Farm were also commandeered and an area stretching from Compton Chamberlayne to Sutton Mandeville became one vast military camp.

1. Postcard - Fovant Badges. A first-day cover delivered by the Army Air Corps.
2. Peace and tranquility at East. Farm, Fovant.
3. Post Office Rifles badge.
4. At the end of hostilities John Combes, having been compensated for the disruption caused, returned his land to agricultural use. He left the carvings on the hill behind his house undisturbed .
5. Somewhere in Fovant. Trench digging.
6. Many thousands of men from all parts of the globe were temporarily stationed in the area. As something of a recreational activity they carved replicas of their Regimental badges on the hillside. The first badge, cut in 1916, is thought to be that of the London Rifle Brigade. Others quickly followed. By the end of World War I there were twenty badges on the hillside.
7. London Rifle Brigade badge.
8. Fovant Home Guard. 1940–1945.
Presented by Mrs. E. Holly in memory of Larry and friends, regulars of The Pembroke Arms, Fovant.
Front row – ?. Chalk, Bert Ashby, R. Woolley, Dick Davies, Bob Coombes, Tom Bracher, Fred Ewence.
2nd row – Lacey Foyle, Don Hardiman, Edgar Jay, Arthur Marsh, Billy Foyle, Ted Mullins, Gerald Bonham.
3rd row – Fred Nokes, Reg Mundy, Una Mullins, Ursula Davies, Margaret Davies, Jimmy Austin.
Back row – Ron Major, Frank Lever, Alfie Farrow, Les Read, Don Cowdray, Bill Lee, Hedley Jarvis, Reg Hardiman.
9. P.T. at the military camp.
10. Fovant Camp huts in 1918.
11. The choice of The Pembroke Arms as the H.Q. of the Home Guard was almost certainly due to the fact that Les Read, fourth from the left in the back row in the Home Guard photograph, was the licensee of The Pembroke Arms during this period.
12. Not all the badges survived. During the period between World Wars I and II, care of the crests ranged from the regular maintenance made by some Regimental Associations to virtually no care at all. Furthermore, at the outbreak of World War II, in order to eliminate landmarks which might assist enemy aircraft, an official edict decreed that all the remaining badges were to be allowed to become overgrown. By the end of World War II the outlines of the badges were virtually invisible. However help was at hand. After being disbanded the Fovant Home Guard having formed themselves into the Home Guard Old Comrades Association, undertook, with the help of local volunteers, the formidable task of restoring the badges on the hill. They also added what might be called their own badges, those of the Wiltshire Regiment and the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, to those they rescued.
13. Home Guard Association Committee – 1950s:
Back row, left to right – George Penny, Rev Eric Blanchet, Willie Langdon, Charles Foyle, W. Clapp, Ray Combes, Leslie Bradford
Front row – Charles Austin, ?, Robert Welchmen, ?, Bob Coombes.
14. Badge of the Wiltshire Regiment [2].
15. Local villagers, Rob Boatwright, Fred Lever, Claude Barlow, Charlie Austin, Dick Targett, Claude Jay and Jimmy Austin – 1950s restoration work group [3].
16. Badge of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry [4].
17. Raising the flag on the Australia “map” at Compton Chamberlayne, [5].
18. The Association functioned from 1945 until 1960. Inevitably as age took its toll of members, workload and cost became increasingly difficult to maintain. Consequently, at the AGM of 1961, it was agreed to change the title of the Association in the hope of widening the membership. Thus was born the Fovant Badges Society. Work continued and the situation remained relatively unchanged until 2000 when Roy Nuttall, the then secretary of the Society, was forced to retire due to ill-health. After the necessary restructuring of the Society which followed, a complete survey of the badges was ordered. Many had deteriorated beyond reasonable restoration, so it was decided to concentrate on those most easily accessible and which could be clearly viewed from the road. Namely those on Fovant Down. As ever funds were limited.

19. Badge of Australian Imperial Force [1].
20. A small card lists the cap badges, and more, in the frame. The identifying numbers are shown on this page in square brackets.
21. Badge of the Royal Corps of Signals, cut in 1970 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Corp's foundation [6].
22. Badge of the Devonshire Regiment [7].
23. Soldiers of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment re-chalking their badge [8].
24. Starting in the 1950s, an annual Drumhead Service of Commemoration is held at East Farm. At this service in July 2001 the Badges Society launched a National Appeal for funds.
25. Badge of the 6th City of London Rifles.
26. A generous response, from a wide variety of sources, to the National Appeal for funds enabled the employment of specialist workmen to start the restoration of the badges in 2002.
27. Badges 2004, after some had been restored.
28. By 2004 eight out of the original twelve major badges were fully restored to their former glory. Maintenance however will always be a continuing problem. Scheduled by English Heritage as an Ancient Monument, Fovant Badges are thought to be the largest group of hill carvings in Europe.

For further information log on to www.fovantbadges.com

See opposite for a description of the
shields surrounding this frame.

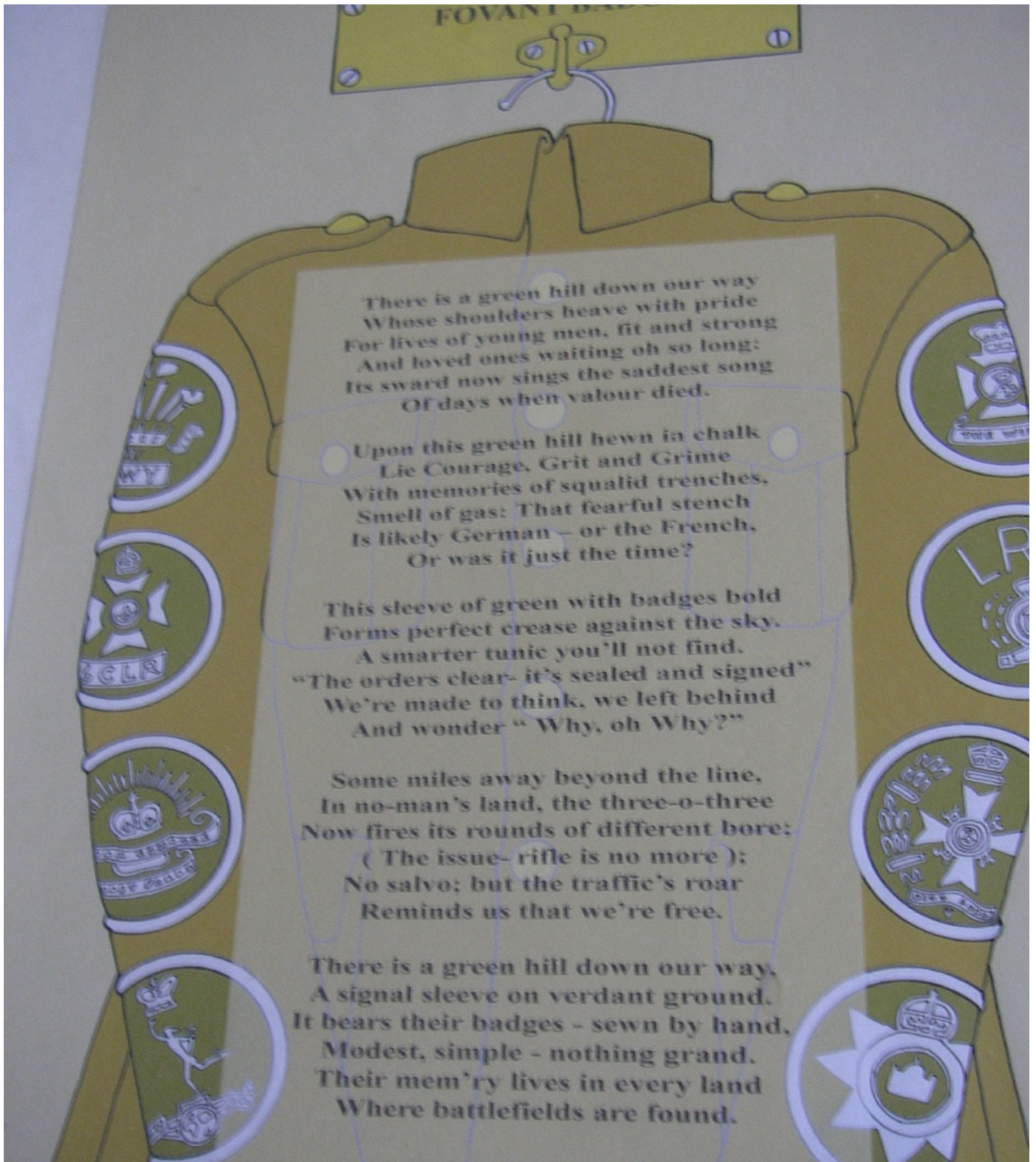
Regimental Shields



The wooden shields surrounding the frame were donated by the regiments and organisations whose badges are (or were) cut into the chalk of the nearby Downs.

1. Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
2. Y.M.C.A.
3. Devonshire Regiment.
4. 7th Bn City of London Regiment.
5. Australian Imperial Force.
6. Devonshire & Dorset Regiment.
7. Wiltshire Regiment.
8. Post Office Rifles.
9. London Rifle Brigade.
10. Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry.
11. Royal Corps of Signals.
12. 6th Bn City of London Regiment.

Fovant Badges – A Poem



Whilst not a soldier-poet of the First World War, Nigel Brodrick-Barker reminds us that the sacrifices made so long ago are not forgotten. His small anthology "A Chapter of Accents" can be found, amongst other places, in Fovant Surgery's waiting room, and Mr. Brodrick-Barker has kindly given us permission for this poem, from that collection, to appear in this display.

Nigel's friend, David Selwood, illustrated the poem with the painting that appears above.

Fovant Badges

There is a green hill down our way
Whose shoulders heave with pride
For lives of young men, fit and strong
And loved ones waiting oh so long:
Its sward now sings the saddest song
Of days when valour died.

Upon this green hill hewn in chalk
Lie Courage, Grit and Grime
With memories of squalid trenches,
Smell of gas: That fearful stench
Is likely German – or the French,
Or was it just the time?

This sleeve of green with badges bold
Forms perfect crease against the sky.
A smarter tunic you'll not find.
"The orders clear – it's sealed and signed"
We're made to think, we left behind
And wonder "Why, oh Why?"

Some miles away, beyond the line,
In no-man's land, the three-o-three
Will fire its rounds of different bore;
(The issue rifle is no more);
No salvo; but the traffic's roar
Reminds us that we're free.

There is a green hill down our way,
A signal sleeve on verdant ground.
It bears their badges – sewn by hand,
Modest, simple – nothing grand.
Their mem'ry lives in every land
Where battlefields are found.

Nigel Brodrick-Barker

The Cast-Iron Sixth



6th Battalion, The City of London Regiment.

(City of London Rifles)

When originally formed in 1860, its members were recruited mostly from employees of the newspaper and printing industry.

The 3/6th Battalion was stationed in Fovant in 1916 and during this time a news-sheet named "The Castironical" was produced, thus perpetuating the regiment's nickname.

The display in this frame contains items donated by Mr. Ernest Victor Smith (Born – 18/6/1897, Died – 22/12/1983).

1. Certificate of Demobilisation.
2. Cap badge of the City of London Rifles.
3. Photograph of Ernest Victor Smith.
4. Letter signed by King George V in 1918, welcoming his return from a Prisoner of War camp.
5. An Infantry Record Office form dated 7/9/20 on the award of the 1914-15 Star to Mr. Smith.
6. Medals awarded:
 - a. 1914-15 Star.
 - b. British War Medal 1914-18.
 - c. Victory Medal.
 - d. Defence Medal (WW II).

(Below are the miniatures of those medals.)

7. Letter from Lady Victoria's Scheme for British Prisoners of War dated 5 March 1919.
8. Army Form 235 for Repatriated Prisoners of War
9. Protection Certificate and Certificate of Identity for a soldier not remaining with the Colours.

A presentation by the King.



King George V presenting a number of decorations to troops for gallantry whilst serving in Ireland.

In the foreground Sergeant-Drummer Richard Cooper of the Notts & Derby Regiment is being presented with the D.C.M. outside the Cross Keys, Fovant. February 12th 1917.

The Australian Presence

1 The Australians were not confined to Hurdcott, but were accommodated throughout the camp complex, wherever there were empty huts when they arrived. The shells full of explosives...
(Caption continues below)

2 In August 1916 the Hurdcott part of Fovant Camp was taken over by the Australian Imperial Force and Hurdcott House became the HQ for No. 4 Command Depot.

Additional huts and facilities were quickly built to accommodate the growing number of men coming from the Commonwealth to fight beside the British troops in France and Belgium.

3 There was also a rehabilitation hospital for wounded who were being treated here in 1916. It was described as a General Hospital for the first half of 1916 and received 1,000 patients discharged 1,187 in their units and sent 1,010 to other hospitals or repatriated to Australia.
(Source: The Official History of the Australian Army Medical Service, edited by A.C. Sutherland)

4 The Boys of the Tenth Brigade
(Poem text follows)

5 *(Photograph of a soldier standing)*

6 At the end of the hostilities Fovant was a large demobilisation centre. Vast numbers of Australian were not amused when the ships needed to carry them home were not forthcoming and they were here for months. It is not surprising that they found more and more disruptive ways of venting their frustration

7 *(Photograph of a cemetery)*

8 *(Photograph of soldiers in uniform)*

9 *(Photograph of a soldier in uniform)*

10 The camp provided some entertainment & Telegraph Office, a cinema, YMCA & Red Cross offices from their own contributions.

11 *(Photograph of a medical building)*

12 *(Photograph of a landscape)*

13 Sport played an important role in the morale, rehabilitation and recreation of the troops. It was also essential for the villagers. It is said that, where the camp at Hurdcott was situated, there were at least 150 sportsmen.

14 *(Photograph of soldiers playing sport)*

15 *(Photograph of a group of soldiers)*

16 *(Photograph of a landscape)*

17 This ANZAC sports medal was won by Pte Bernard Jack Collins, of Hawkesbury, Melbourne, on ANZAC Day 1918. Five months later he died in France aged 22.

At the end of the hostilities Fovant was a large demobilisation centre. Vast numbers of Australians were not amused when the ships needed to carry them home were not forthcoming and they were here for months. It is not surprising that they found more and more disruptive ways of venting their frustration.

1. The Australians were not confined to Hurdcott, but were accommodated throughout the camp complex, wherever there were empty huts when they arrived. The chalk hill cutting of their badge is with the others overlooking the main camp at Fovant, but there was a large map of their homeland on the hill at Hurdcott. Unfortunately, this has been allowed to grow over because the Australian Army and Government have concentrated their resources on the main 'Rising Sun' emblem.
2. Cap badge of Australian Imperial Force.
3. There was also a substantial hospital with at least 175 beds. It was described as a Group Clearing (Convalescent) Hospital for wounded who were likely to be fit for duty in 6 months. In the first half of 1918 this hospital admitted 3,368 patients, discharged 2,187 to their units and sent 1,010 to other hospitals or repatriated to Australia.

(from 'The Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services' edited by A.C. Butler).

4. The Boys of the Tenth Brigade.

By Gunner R.W. Madden. printed by Wessex Publishing Co(1917) Ltd, Tisbury and Yeovil.

Now your battles are over and your laurels
 You have won,
 There's many a man will shake your hand and say to you
 "Well done"
 You'll be proud to feel you've done your bit and given
 a helping hand.
 But you'll think of those who lie beneath the soil of
 'No Man's Land',
 You can tell your friends when you get home of the history
 they have made,
 For braver lads ne'er fought a fight than the
 'Boys of the Tenth Brigade'.

At Messines Ridge and the Somme that's where
 they made their name
 Australia's proud of the feats they've done, the world
 rings out their fame
 Their country's honour they've preserved, they fought
 to keep her free,
 To save her from the oppressor heels, and
 shape her destiny
 Through shot and shell they fought their way, of death
 they weren't afraid,
 They've done their part and nobly too, those
 'Boys of the Tenth Brigade'

And when at last you're safe amongst your
 kith and kin,
 You'll tell them of the hardships and the battles you've
 been in,
 Your face will glow with pride though your heart
 will saddened be,
 As you tell them of the comrades left behind, across
 the sea,
 How they fought and won and died, great courage
 they displayed,
 They've done their share and gone before those
 'Boys of the Tenth Brigade'.

Those of us who are left behind should keep their
 memory green,
 For had they not fought for freedom where would
 we have been
 No land could we have called our own once the Kaiser
 held the sway,
 And the liberties we all enjoy, like the mists, would
 pass away,
 Remember, men of Australia, the price those lads
 have paid,
 They gave their all for you and me those
 'Boys of the Tenth Brigade'.

R.W. Madden.

5. Lt Harold Renshaw MC.
6. 'Just before the Battle' snow scene.
7. Gravestones of Australians in Fovant Churchyard.
8. Snowmen in 1917.
9. Studio photograph of an Australian soldier.
10. The camp provided some amenities – a Post & Telegraph Office, a cinema, YMCA hut, and a twice-weekly concert often from their own Concert Party 'The Kangaroos'.
11. Programme for Advance Australia Musical Evening, 15 January 1918.
12. Tennis at East Farm.
13. Watching cricket, many Australian players.
14. Sport played an important part in the training, rehabilitation and relaxation of the troops. It was also entertaining for the villagers. It is said that when the camp at Hurdcott was finally disbanded there were at least 150 cricket bats for sale!
15. Football team of the 6th Trg Bn Football Group, Fovant, 26/1/1918.
16. View of 6 CLR & AIF badges & rifle butts.
17. This ANZAC sports medal was won by Pte Bernard Jack Conlan, of Hawthorn, Melbourne, on ANZAC Day 1918. Five months later he died in France aged 22.

Military badges



Having its roots in heraldry, the display of military insignia on clothing or standards has had a long and honourable tradition. Initially devised as a means of being able to identify your own side in the heat of battle, the wearing of regimental badges also engendered a sense of bonding within a group of people who all had a common purpose. Pride in, and loyalty to, your regiment is a sentiment that, in many cases, lasts for a lifetime, as is proven by the desire to acknowledge this sense of belonging shown by many Service Veterans on ceremonial occasions.

The badges displayed here were donated to the Pembroke Arms collection over many years and are shown in an order of precedence established, and recognised, by the Armed Forces. Some of the badges are those of regiments which have either been disbanded or amalgamated with other regiments. Others, such as the Royal Tank Regiment, were formed from within the ranks of existing regiments and, like the Royal Air Force, which developed from the Royal Flying Corps, adapted to the changing times as technological advances were made.

Of the representations of military insignia cut into the nearby Downs during WW I, only two are represented in this display, namely those of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the Australian Military Forces. Furthermore, some of the badges shown here are of regiments who only came into being after WW I. However, all were worn by servicemen and women united by a common feeling of pride in belonging to something worthwhile.

1. Royal Marines.

Cavalry and Foot Guards.

2. The Life Guards.
3. The Royal Horse Guards.
4. The Royal Dragoons.
5. Royal Tank Regiment.
6. Royal Armoured Corps.
7. Reconnaissance Corps.
8. Coldstream Guards.

Support Arms.

9. Royal Regiment of Artillery.
10. Corps of Royal Engineers.
11. Royal Corps of Signals.
12. Royal Air Force.

Infantry.

13. The Queen's Royal Regiment.
14. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
15. The Lancashire Fusiliers.
16. The Royal Welch Fusiliers.
17. The Royal Regiment of Wales.
18. The Dorsetshire Regiment.
19. The Sherwood Foresters.
20. The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
21. The King's Shropshire Light Infantry.
22. The Middlesex Regiment.
23. The Gordon Highlanders.

Services.

- 24. Royal Army Service Corps.
- 25. Royal Corps of Transport.
- 26. Royal Army Medical Corps.
- 27. Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
- 28. Royal Army Pay Corps.
- 29. Small Arms School.
- 30. Intelligence Corps.
- 31. Army Catering Corps.
- 32. Auxiliary Territorial Service.
- 33. Women's Royal Army Corps.

Territorial Army.

- 34. The Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons.
- 35. The Wessex Regiment.
- 36. Territorial Army Service Corps – Devon and Cornwall.

37. Australian Military Forces.

WW I artefacts



This group of artefacts was put together by the Fovant Badges Society and probably collected by Roy Nuttall, specifically to display in The Pembroke Arms.

Unfortunately, neither of the Padghams are recorded in the records of Fovant History Interest Group.

1. Embroidered Royal Field Artillery card.
2. Christmas Card 1916 from Driver C. Padgham, B battery, 336 Brigade.
3. Small brass anchor.
4. Board of Trade coupon for 2 "E" Units.
5. RFA brass insignia
6. Troop of mounted soldiers.
7. Small, silver RFA button.
8. Large brass RFA button.
9. Postcard of sailor. Royal Naval Division.
10. Silver metal trench candle. (One tube holds the candle, the other for matches with striker between).
11. New Testament, signed both H. Padgham and C Padgham, 2nd 5th Sussex, 1914.
12. Rectangular tin, painted, Grandma and child. Mazawatte ? American.
13. Postcard of group of sailors outside hut.

The Boy in The Bag



1

The Boy in The Bag or Kid-knap-sacked



2

On Christmas Day 1918, as No. 4 Squadron Australian Flying Corps were mopping up in Belgium a small French orphan attached himself to them as their mascot. When the time came for them to be demobbed they made extensive enquiries in a war-torn France but could find no relatives to care for him.

Tim Tovell and his brother, Ted, from Jandowae, Qld. decided that Henri would have to go with them back to Australia. The first stop was Hurdcott Camp at Fovant where a visit to a tailor provided Henri with a small replica of the uniform he had grown to love.

3



4

They could not use the sack trick again to smuggle him onto the transport ship when the time came to sail, but put him into a sports equipment hamper and, with a couple of blind eyes turned, finally arrived in Australia to a hero's welcome.

Tim adopted him and, after his schooling was over, Henri opted to join the RAAF (as it had become). He started as a civilian employee until he could reach 21 and be naturalised as an Australian citizen.

A few weeks before this occurred he was killed in a motorbike accident. The No.4 Squadron made a collection and erected a fine memorial stone crowned with a bronze figure of the small, lost waif they had first known.

5



6



7

The full story of Henri and Tim's adventures can be read in 'Young Digger' by Anthony Hill

8

Pictures with kind permission of the Australian War Memorial Museum Canberra.



10

9

or Kid-knap-sacked

1. The Boy (nearly) in The Bag'
2. Ready to go in.
3. On Christmas Day 1918, as No 4 Squadron Australian Flying Corps were mopping up in Belgium, a small French orphan attached himself to them as their mascot. When the time came for them to be demobbed they made extensive enquiries in a war-torn France but could find no relatives to care for him.
Tim Tovell and his brother, Ted, from Jandoway, Queensland, decided that Henri would have to go with them back to Australia. The first stop was Hurdcott Camp at Fovant where a visit to a tailor provided Henri with a small replica of the uniform he had grown to love.
4. Henri in his tailored replica uniform.
5. They could not use the sack trick again to smuggle him on to the transport ship when the time came to sail, but put him into a sports equipment hamper and, with a couple of blind eyes turned, finally arrived in Australia to a hero's welcome.
Tim adopted him and, after his schooling was over, Henri opted to join the RAAF (as it had become). He started as a civilian employee until he could reach 21 and be naturalised as an Australian citizen.
A few weeks before this occurred he was killed in a motorbike accident. The No 4 Squadron made a collection and erected a fine memorial stone crowned with a bronze figure of the small, lost waif they had first known.
6. Henri's grave and memorial stone.
7. Tim and Henri.
8. *Pictures with kind permission of the Australian War Memorial Museum, Canberra.*
9. The full story of Henri and Tim's adventures can be read in 'Young Digger' by Anthony Hill.
10. The cover of 'Young Digger'.

Some essentials for the WW I Soldier



This cabinet contains a number of items assembled when the original display was reorganised by the Fovant History Interest Group.

1. British bayonet.
2. Musketry Regulations, Part 1, 1909.
3. Scimitar paper knife. (made by a German POW from a bullet and a piece of a shell case and given to 5259 L/Cpl W Cross, 4th Kings in 1916).
4. Metal hinged, D-shaped kitbag fastener.
5. Ration biscuit in cellophane. (Still good enough to eat ?)
6. Selection of bullets and fired cartridges which can still be picked up below the Downs where the firing range was situated.
7. Flattened packet for Players Navy Cut Medium cigarettes. Inside is a label which says that each cigarette is stamped with "Players".
8. London Rifle Brigade pocket watch-shaped lighter.
9. Mounted heavy machine gun bullet (found in 1926 on a schoolboy pilgrimage to the battlefield at Beaumont Hamel by Jack Cole whose cousin was buried there).
10. Brass cases (could be trench candle holders).
11. Soldier's Companion of Useful Information by Charles Lett.

God Save the King



The provenance of this small banner is unknown to us. However, we were able to glean some information not only from the cap badge on the soldier's uniform but also from an inscription on the back of the picture of the man in civilian clothes. We are as certain as we can be that the cap badge is that of a soldier from the 20th Hussars. Additionally the soft hat and stable belt suggest a cavalry regiment.

On the reverse of the picture of the civilian is written 'To Dear Ernest with Best Love from your Loving Brother George'. Assuming that the civilian is George, is the soldier Ernest? Or maybe the photographs are of the same man so that they are each a picture of George. There is also part of a faint pencilled address on the back of this photograph - 'Samson Road, Shirley'. There are four places called Shirley in England, one each in Derby, Solihull and London, but it is probably the one in Southampton that our soldier is most likely to have had a connection with.

What of the embroidery? Competent, but amateur. Probably done by a member of the family who could have been mourning the loss of a loved one. Although the colours have faded, the British and American flags are easily identified. The inclusion of the American flag suggests that this small banner was made after the Americans entered World War I in 1917. The flag next to the Union Jack is almost certainly that of France, but the one next to the Stars and Stripes is a bit of a puzzle. As yet we haven't been able to identify this flag, with three vertical stripes which has red nearest the hoist side, followed by white and an unknown colour on the fly side. Which country do you think it belongs to?

20th Hussars

- 1818 2nd Bengal European Light Cavalry transferred from Honourable East India Company to Crown Control
- 1839 2nd Bengal European Cavalry
- 1862 20th Regiment of Hussars transferred to British Army
- 1877 20th Hussars
- 1880 considered successor to earlier 20th Light Dragoons
- 1921 disbanded
- 1922 one squadron reconstituted and amalgamated with 14th King's Hussars to form 14th/20th Hussars



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Item 2

20th Hussars

1858	2nd Bengal European Light Cavalry <i>transferred from the Honourable East India Company to Crown Control</i>
1859	2nd Bengal European Cavalry
1862	20th Regiment of Hussars <i>transferred to British Army</i>
1877	20th Hussars
1890	<i>considered successor to earlier 20th Light Dragoons</i>
1921	<i>disbanded</i>
1922	<i>one squadron reconstituted and amalgamated with 14th King's Hussars to form 14/20th Hussars.</i>



Fovant Military Railway



Opened Oct 15th 1915.

Finally closed Feb 15th 1924.

Dismantled 1926.

1. The railway ran from Dinton Station, on the main line from London to Exeter, and wound its way up the steep incline to Fovant. It reached a gradient of 1 in 35 despite cuttings and embankments many of which can still be seen today.
2. A piece of the original wood can still be seen in Green Drove.
3. When the line was finally dismantled, the villagers bought sleepers and rails for many purposes.
4. **Westminster** is one of the three engines used on the line which is still "alive". A Peckett 0-6-0 saddle tank locomotive, number 1378, built in 1914 specially for the military side lines. It was sold after the war to Associated Portland Cement Company, where it worked till 1968. Several railway enthusiasts owned it until, in 1998 she found a home with Northampton and Lamport steam railway line. Like many old ladies she is waiting a few new parts before she runs again.
5. Where the line crossed Dinton Road and went through the village allotments.
6. The cutting above the houses in High Street. Trees have grown in the middle of what was the track and some of the retaining wall has collapsed.
7. The station was in front of what is now the Emblems Restaurant, although the line continued a few more yards to the army stores on the Fovant/Compton parish boundary.
8. Army stores staff.

Fovant during WW I 1914-1919



The label at the top right of this display says "Military camps with the capacity to hold 40,000 men." Actually, this was a misunderstanding, as the capacity at any one time was for only 20,000 men.

However, during the demobilisation period the greater number did pass through the camps.

1. The huts

were wooden with corrugated iron roofs served by well-made roads and duck-board paths.

2. Estate map.

In 1919 some of the Pembroke Estate was sold. This map shows clearly the position of the camps at that time.

3. Army Service Corps.

Stables and huts were joined by well-serviced and well-drained roads and paths. The outline of the camps can still be clearly seen, as this field has not been ploughed since.

4. Y.M.C.A.

There were five huts providing support for Christian soldiers and quiet places from the hurley-burley of camp life. They also built accommodation for relatives visiting sick soldiers in the hospital.

5. Fovant camp

was a training and rehabilitation camp preparing soldiers from many parts of England and from Australia for the fighting which lay ahead of France, Belgium and, eventually, Germany.

6. A photo.

Written on the back – “Tucker time on Signal Station No 3 heliograph, white flag, and blue on right”.

7. Fovant Army hospitals.

Over 300 beds at the main hospital, 40 beds to each hut, and staffed by RAMC and local people.

There were two auxiliary hospitals, one at Hurdcott Camp for the Australian troops of at least 175 beds staffed by AIF Medical Corps.

Another at Tisbury vicarage (49 beds) staffed by VADs.

8. Some amenities enjoyed by the villagers.

9. The cinema

showed many of the latest films with Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford among the favourites.

10. The spur railway

was built from the main trunk line passing through Dinton. It carried wounded and stores – the soldiers continued to march when on the move

11. The military post and telegraph office

replaced the village one for the duration.

12. 1915 photograph of camps.

A photograph, taken during the early part of the WW I from Chiselbury Camp looking north, shows the camps being built. Numbers 1 to 4 up Green Drove, and Camp No 13 south of the A30. The HQ and officers' billets are in the farm buildings of East Farm, with the electricity generator to the right. Camp 13 also held the parade ground and training facilities.

13. Hurdcott Farm

became the HQ for the Australian Imperial Forces Number 4 Command. Large numbers of AIF soldiers were based here, although they often overflowed into the other Fovant camps.

14. Private Jack Duffle.

A young Australian soldier who, at the age of 18, was gassed in France. He spent 14 months in hospital before being repatriated unfit for further service.

15. Lt H.C. Renshaw M.C.

Later in France with the 7th Company of Engineers and transferred to the 6th Field Company.

16. Aussie soldiers experience snow for the first time.

17. In 1919 when the camps were demolished

some of the huts were sold to local people who turned many into snug homes. Other goods and furniture were also sold including more than 100 cricket bats from the Australian camp.

18. Acknowledgements:

Grateful thanks to those who allowed us to use the photographs. YMCA, Australian War Memorial Museum, Salisbury and South Wilts Museum, Tracey Coombes. All other photos come from the Fovant History Interest Group's collection.

Wartime Currency 1914-1918

WARTIME CURRENCY 1914 - 1918

GERMAN

1. August 1914 Berlin – 2 Mark
2. August 1914 Berlin – 1 Mark
3. January 1918 Heilsberg – 10 pfennig

The 'Darlehnskassenschein' was first introduced in August 1914, during World War I. It was not an official banknote. However it was used as a means of payment like a normal banknote. It received its name from the institutions that issued these bills – the 'Darlehnskassen' (loan societies). These bills were loan certificates of these societies. If the certificates were misused a penalty of between two and eight years detention could be imposed.

POLISH

1. April 1916 Posen – 50 Kopeken
2. April 1916 Posen – 20 Kopeken

The 19th century Prussian province of Posen was, until 1793, called *Wielkopolska*, literally 'Greater Poland'. After Germany lost World War I the territory of the Province of Posen was returned to Poland which was then restored as an independent nation. Before World War I about 35% of the population were German speaking. This probably explains why these 'vouchers' are printed in German on the front and Polish on the reverse. Why the monetary denomination is in Kopeks, a Russian coinage, and not Zlotys the Polish coinage, remains a mystery.

Darlehnskassenschein
50 Fünfzig Kopeken 50

DARLEHNSKASSENSCHHEIN
ZWANZIG KOPEKEN 20

50 Fünfzig Kopeken 50

50 Fünfzig Kopeken 50

FRENCH

1. April 1915 no town given, note printed on one side only – 50 centimes
2. May 1916 Cambrai – 50 centimes
3. March 1916 Solesmes – 1 franc
4. June 1917 L'Aune, Ardennes, Marne – 25 centimes
5. Oct. 1917 Lille – 5 centimes
6. Oct. 1917 Lille – 10 centimes
7. July 1917 Lille – 25 centimes
8. April 1917 Rodouin and Turcoing – 25 centimes
9. Oct. 1917 Rodouin and Turcoing – 2 francs
10. Nov. 1917 Rodouin and Turcoing – 1 franc

Similar to the German and Polish loan certificates, these apparent banknotes were really currency vouchers. They could be used in any of the towns listed, many of whose names will be familiar as battlefield sites. The vouchers were only valid if they had the appropriate stamp and signature printed on them. They were redeemable for periods varying, according to differing locations, from 6 months to two years after peace was signed.

11. Bank of France – 5 francs

The only true banknote in this collection. It is accompanied by a note from the Reverend Joe Bell, a former Rector of Fosseux which states that it was part of the last pay-parade of 1st Line Infantry, QARANC, who served as hospital ships at the Dardanelles, Salonika and in casualty clearing stations near Arras and the base hospital at Enghien.

50 Centimes

CINQUANTE Centimes

UN FRANC

CINQUANTE Centimes

5 Cent

10 CENTIMES

0.25

CINQ FRANCS

DEUX FRANCS

DEUX FRANCS

UN FRANC

GERMAN (1).

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. August 1914 | Berlin – 2 Mark. |
| 2. August 1914 | Berlin – 1 Mark. |
| 3. January 1918 | Heilsberg – 10 pfennig. |

The 'Darlehnskassenschein' was first introduced in August 1914, during World War 1. It was not an official banknote. However it was used as a means of payment like a normal banknote. It received its name from the institutions that issued these bills – the 'Darlehnskassen' (loan societies). These bills were loan certificates of these societies. If the certificates were misused a penalty of between two and eight years detention could be imposed.

POLISH (2).

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. April 1916 | Posen – 50 Kopeken. |
| 2. April 1916 | Posen – 20 Kopeken. |

The 19th century Prussian province of Posen was, until 1793, called *Wielkopolska*, literally ‘Greater Poland’. After Germany lost World War 1 the territory of the Province of Posen was returned to Poland which was then restored as an independent nation. Before World War 1 about 35% of the population were German speaking. This probably explains why these ‘vouchers’ are printed in German on the front and Polish on the reverse. Why the monetary denomination is in Kopeks, a Russian coinage, and not Zlotys the Polish coinage, remains a mystery.

FRENCH (3)

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------|
| 1. April 1915 | No town given, note printed on one side only – | 50 centimes. |
| 2. May 1916 | Cambrai – 50 centimes. | |
| 3. March 1916 | Solesmes – 1 franc. | |
| 4. June 1917 | L’Aisne, Ardennes, Marne – 25 centimes. | |
| 5. October 1917 | Lille – 5 centimes. | |
| 6. October 1917 | Lille – 10 centimes. | |
| 7. July 1917 | Lille – 25 centimes. | |
| 8. April 1917 | Roubaix and Turcoing – 25 centimes. | |
| 9. October 1917 | Roubaix and Turcoing – 2 francs. | |
| 10. November 1917 | Roubaix and Turcoing – 1 franc. | |

Similar to the German and Polish loan certificates these apparent banknotes were really currency vouchers. They could be used in any of the towns listed, many of whose names will be familiar as battlefield sites. The vouchers were only valid if it had the appropriate stamp and signature printed on it. They were redeemable for periods varying, according to differing locations, from 6 months to two years after peace was signed.

11. Bank of France – 5 francs.

The only true banknote in this collection. It is accompanied with a note from the Reverend Joe Bell, a former Rector of Fovant which states that it was 'part of the last pay-parade of Sister Lillian Healey, QARANC, who served in hospital ships at the Dardanelles, Salonika and in casualty clearing stations near Armentieres and the base hospital at Etaples'.

Roy Nuttall



Roy, who served for many years as Secretary to Fovant Badges Society, worked tirelessly to further the interests of the Society. Foremost in these endeavours was his foundation of what we came to know as the World War I museum.

Time has moved on. The Fovant History Interest Group, set up in 2000 specifically to research the history of Fovant, has now taken on responsibility for the collection. We have recently re-organised the display not only to reflect more fully the affect of the advent of the military into our village, but also to emphasise the importance of preserving Fovant Badges for posterity.

The sketches of the badges within the frame reflect those badges that are (or in some cases, were) cut into the chalk of the nearby Downs.

1. The Post Office Rifles.
2. Map of Australia, (no longer visible).
3. Australian Commonwealth Military Forces.
4. The Wiltshire Regiment.
5. Y.M.C.A.
6. The Devonshire Regiment.
7. Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry.
8. London Rifle Brigade.
9. Royal Warwickshire Regiment, (no longer visible).
10. 7th Battalion, City of London Regiment.
11. City of London Rifles.
12. Royal Corps of Signals.

For further information please log on to: www.fovantbadges.com

The Great War 1914-1918

1. A General View of the Tisbury Vicarage, built by Dr. HCC Clay in 1870, with 120 medical beds. It was described by patients as 'a narrow corridor with lighted windows and very sympathetic staff'.

2. The Vicarage at Tisbury, built by the Rev. F. Hutchinson. The camp hospital was built in the garden. (With kind permission of Mrs. J. C. C. C. C.)

3. The Vicarage at Tisbury, built by the Rev. F. Hutchinson. The camp hospital was built in the garden. (With kind permission of Mrs. J. C. C. C.)

4. The Royal Army Medical Corps supplied staff for the hospital.

5. Arthur, a young man from Birmingham, who was killed in the war. (With kind permission of his son, Mrs. Doreen.)

6. The Australian Camp provided medical services. (With kind permission of Mrs. J. C. C. C.)

7. Jack Duffell, a 17-year-old boy from Malmesbury, who was killed in the war. (With kind permission of his mother, Mrs. J. C. C. C.)

8. A group of soldiers in uniform.

9. A group of soldiers in uniform.

10. A group of soldiers in uniform.

11. A group of soldiers in uniform.

MILITARY HOSPITAL
associated with the camps centred on Fovant.

There were 650 beds - 50 at the Tisbury Vicarage. At least 175 at the Australian Camp at Hardcott. And the rest (425) at the main camp in Fovant.

TISBURY: was the first when the Rev. F. Hutchinson lent the Vicarage for the duration. It was staffed by Voluntary Aid Detachment nurses - a combination of Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance trained staff headed by Mrs. Shaw Stewart of Hays, Sturminster.

HURDCOTT: was established when the Hurcott Farm camp was taken over by the Australian Imperial Forces as their No. 4 Command Depot. It was staffed by Australian Military personnel.

FOVANT: was the largest with surgery and isolation facilities. It was staffed by military personnel as well as local villagers. Dr. HCC Clay, the local GP, was in charge of some medical beds while neighbourhood girls and boys worked as aides and orderlies.

MILITARY HOSPITAL

There were 650 beds – 50 at Tisbury Vicarage, at least 175 at the Australian camp at Hurdcott and the rest (425) at the main camp in Fovant.

HURDCOTT: was established when the Hurdcott Farm camp was taken over by the Australian Imperial Force as their No.4 Command Depot. It was staffed by Australian military personnel.

30

1. **A general view** taken by Dr. RCC Clay, a Fovant GP who was in charge of 120 beds.
2. He also took this photo of a ward decorated to celebrate victory. Patients are dressed in their “Blues”, a dark blue uniform with lighter blue lapels which were very unpopular.
(with kind permission of Salisbury and South Wilts Museum)
3. **The vicarage at Tisbury**, lent at the outbreak of war by the Rev. F. Hutchinson. Before the camp hospital was built at Fovant, surgery was performed here.
(with kind permission of Tisbury History Society)
4. **The Royal Army Medical Corps** supplied staff for the hospital.
5. **Arthur Brooks** came from Birmingham as a nursing orderly. Years later his son and daughter-in-law, by chance, bought a house in the village where Arthur had spent those war years.
(With kind permission of his son, the late Roy Brooks)
6. **The Australian camp** at Hurdcott Farm provided rehabilitation for their own soldiers. Surgery, emergency medicine and isolation were available at the main Fovant hospital.
7. **Jack Duffell**, a 17-year-old, from Melbourne, gassed in the trenches, spent nine months here before being discharged unfit to return to the front. His story can be read in “Soldier Boy” by Gilbert Mant.
8. George Goodfellow worked as an orderly until he was old enough to join up himself.
(With kind permission of his daughter Mrs. J Coombes.)
9. **Dorothy King**, nurse.
10. **Miss Mervyn Mullins** cycled over from Broadchalke each day. She is standing on the left.
Mervyn took photos of her friends on the way to work and at a tea break. One of these girls is Bessie Lever, from Fovant. Bessie later married one of the soldiers she met and nursed.
(With kind permission of Mervyn's family)
11. **Joe Langdon** who supplied milk to the hospital. His nephew, **Willie**, went with him every day. The Sister in charge of the ward took the little boy to the kitchen where some kittens had just been born, Willie was allowed to hold them – an event still remembered after 90 years!
(With kind permission of the late Willie Langdon)