

Radwinter's

First
World War



A Radwinter at War Publication
by Michael Southgate

The launch of a new book on the part played by Radwinter in the First World War, will take place in Radwinter Village Hall on March 20, 2014 following the brief Radwinter Society AGM at 7.30 p.m. Doors open at 7.00 p.m.

Radwinter's First World War, records the War both from the home front as well as the activities of the 104 Radwinter men who served their Country during the Great War, of whom 28, almost a third, gave their lives.

Of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, five had been wounded previously, some of them several times but had been patched up and sent back to fight. One of these men had already been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). No less than 21 men were also wounded but survived the War making it nearly half the serving men being either killed or wounded; three of them had also been gassed.

One other DCM was also awarded to a Radwinter man and two had Military Medals (MM), the other ranks equivalent of the Military Cross (MC). Inevitably, as the troops became mingled in action, one Radwinter man was awarded the French military medal for bravery, the Médaille Militaire.

The book includes 18 black and white and seven colour photographs of people and artefacts from the time and indexes no less than 346 Radwinter people, involving 90 distinct surnames and many others from neighbouring parishes.

It reproduces letters home from the serving men, extracts from private family archives and reports in the Radwinter Parish Magazine of those awarded medals, wounded, made prisoner of war or home on leave. Fundraising, food provision and support activities for the boys at the front are also detailed, as are the Zeppelin raids over Radwinter.

Radwinter surnames recorded in the book include: Acker, Adams, Andrews, Archer, Bacon, Baily, Ballard, Barker, Baynes, Brigley, Bullock, Butcher, Butterworth, Carter, Chapman, Clarke, Colley, Colman, Coote, Cornell, Cowell, Crickmore, Cuffley, Edwards, Ellingham, Farrant, Freeman, French,

Gibson, Gowlett, Graves, Gypps, Halls, Harris, Hatton, Hoare, Housden, Ingle, Jarrard, Jarvis, Ketteridge, Livermore, Mascall, Medcalf, Mizen, Monk, Moore, Mortimer, Newell, Newling, Nicholson, Palmer, Porter, Potts, Powley, Price Powell, Richardson, Ridgwell, Robbins, Rule, Ruse, Scase, Sharpe, Sheard, Shearman, Swan, Thake, Thomas, Turpin, Underwood, Valient, Vernon, Webb, Wigley, Wilkie, Winship, Wright, Wyers and Youel.

Published by Radwinter Publishing, ISBN 978-0-9927909-0-5, the book will be available at the launch on March 20, priced at £7.00 for Radwinter Society Members and £8.00 for others, and on Friday, March 21 from Radwinter Post Office, or in Saffron Walden from the Tourist Office, Market Square, Trade-In-Post, 7 Central Arcade and Harts, Shire Hill Estate, and other good book shops or by post, plus £2.00 postage and packing, from The Radwinter Society at the telephone number or e-mail address below. Local purchases can be delivered or left for collection at a convenient location in Radwinter or Saffron Walden to avoid postage.



The British Victory Medal of Private James Arthur Jarvis

Radwinter Society

Radwinter Society exists to explore the rich history of Radwinter and to record activities for future generations.

We collect and maintain a store of over 1000 documents and historic artifacts which are recorded on a relational database so that any place, person or topic mentioned in the documents can be searched and the documents retrieved.

Documents are stored in archival conditions in special boxes on metal racking. Addition photographs and other documents that their owners wish to retain are copied on an A3 scanner and the images stored and backed up digitally.

In addition to the publications and talks that this resource enables, members of the public can research their Radwinter families and heritage and obtain information on a wide range of topics from houses to Saxon droeways and from early industries to Roman settlement.

Membership costs just £8.00 a year and entitles you to receive a newsletter and notices of meetings and events as well as discounts on publications. You may also vote at meetings and serve on the committee.

The Radwinter at War Series

This is the first book in the Radwinter at War Series. Although not originally planned as the first book in the series, it was advanced to celebrate this First World War Centenary Year.

Research on two of the other books in the series, Radwinter's Second World War and Great Sampford Airfield, is almost complete and it is hoped to publish one of these this year. The Second World War book grew out of the Radwinter's Home Front Exhibition we staged in 2005 and has proved to be a much larger task that we

had anticipated, with a major Army Camp in Radwinter and a POW Youth Camp, of National Importance.

Belying its name, Great Sampford Airfield was mostly in Radwinter, placed as it was in the fields of Great Brockholds. Its runways are wholly in Radwinter and its perimeter track is 95 per cent so. With its mess site in Wimbish and its barracks in Radwinter, Wimbish and Great Sampford, it is also of importance to our neighbouring parishes.

Despite its popular reputation as a secondary landing strip for the nearby station of Debden, Great Sampford airfield was far more important than that. For most of its life it was a RAF site in its own right playing a major role in the Second World War. It was variously an independently operating field, the headquarters of an important Eagle squadron, a major training centre for airfield defence, a glider landing practice ground for the Second Front and the headquarters of the RAF Police controlling the orderly demobilisation of RAF personnel when the War was ended.

The final book in the series, Poles Apart, tells the story of the Polish Airmen who had formed the backbone of the Battle of Britain and who, faced with returning to certain death in their Russian-occupied homeland, built mushroom farms in Radwinter and neighbouring parishes and continued to play a vital undercover job when the Second World War had ended.



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Book Launch

Radwinter Village Hall

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Following the brief Radwinter
Society A.G.M. at 7.30 p.m.
Thursday, 20 March, 2014.
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