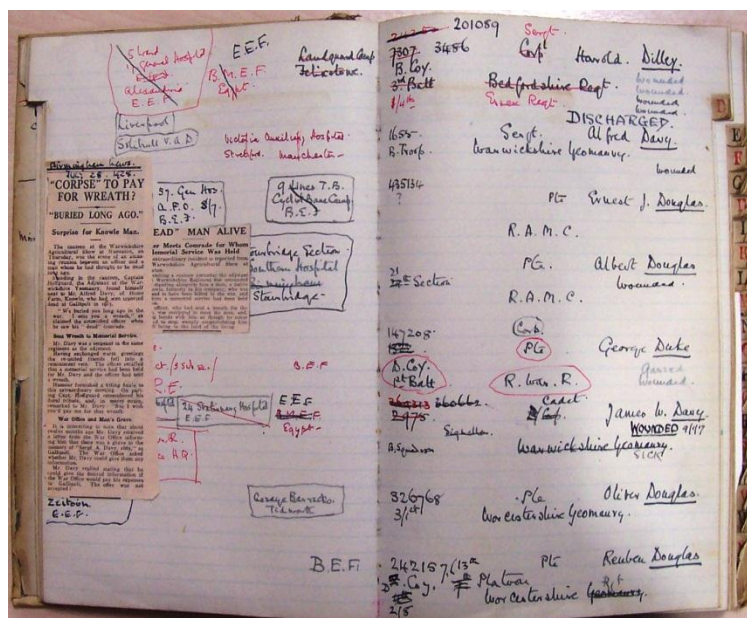


“Knowle Men” in the First World War

DRB56/268/1



The register

This register, entitled *Knowle Men* was kept by the Reverend Dowling of Knowle Parish Church. It contains the names of every man from Knowle who enlisted in the First World War.

The details of each man are spread across two pages. The notes show their names, regiment and number, addresses of hospitals they were treated in, and if they won any medals or were mentioned in despatches.

Rev. Dowling recorded what happened to each man, including each time they were injured and returned to war. Many of the men have 'wounded' next to their names, while others are listed as 'missing', 'sick', 'frost bitten', 'gassed' and 'killed'.

Reverend T.W. Downing

Thomas William Dowling was the Vicar of Knowle between 1901-1932. He had a keen interest in ancient parochial documents, leading him to compile the book, *The Records of Knowle*, which was published in 1914.

Dowling was revered for keeping the spirit of village life alive through his work in the community. This was especially prevalent during the war. Examples of his

unconscious and sent back to England, and although his parents were informed he was alive, the War Office believed him to be dead. Wreaths were even sent to the war cemetery in Gallipoli, where there was a headstone for him. The newspaper cutting tells of the moment Davy met a friend at an agricultural show in 1928, who was unaware of his survival.

Captain Stratford Ludlow

A letter from the Imperial War Graves Commission, 16th October 1931 inserted in the register tells of Captain Ludlow, 8th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Ludlow was listed as missing on the Thiepval Memorial (a memorial to mark those lost in the Battle of Somme with no known grave). The letter states that an identity disc and personal items (including a gold ring and gold horse shoe charm) had been found with his body, so Captain Ludlow's burial place could finally be identified. He was reburied in Serre Road Cemetery and is memorialised in a stained glass window in Knowle Parish Church.

Warwickshire at War

Much of the research into this register was undertaken by Sue Tall, a volunteer with the *Warwickshire at War* project. The volunteers have been exploring the First World War collections held by Heritage and Culture Warwickshire.

Find out more at <http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/warwickshireatwar>

References

The Records of Knowle, collected by T.W. Downing, 1914.

Wooton, Eva, *The History of Knowle*, Roundwood Press, 1972.