



Armistice Day

11th November 2018

Robert Edmund Noel

Royal Fusiliers

Robert, the third and youngest son of the Earl and Countess of Gainsborough arrived at Downside in April 1901, and left in July 1907. He was a bright, cheerful and popular boy who was a keen Tennis player and a good forward at Hockey. He was a very useful member of the choir and also took a conspicuous part in the School theatricals. After leaving Downside he went to Trinity College Cambridge before being gazetted 2nd lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers in April 1910, promoted lieutenant in 1912, and Captain in 1915. On the outbreak of war, he was appointed Provost-Marshal at Lagos. He was attached to the Nigerian Regiment, then operating in the Cameroons, until a bad attack of fever caused him to be sent home. In June 1916, after returning to Lagos, he was ordered up country to put an end to local risings. In July 1917 he proceeded with a draft to reinforce the Nigerian Regiment in German East Africa, and after helping to clear the country of the enemy, he died at Massassi on February 2nd 1918 of a fever contracted during the campaign. He was twenty-nine years of age.

Thomas Edmund Byrne

Welsh Guards

"Teddy" Byrne arrived at Downside in April 1910 and left in 1916. He was a strong, direct, somewhat reserved boy, with plenty of courage and determination. He was fond of reading and took part in debates of the Abingdon Society. He was a Caverel House prefect and played 1st XI football and hockey, was captain of the Boxing Club, and was a member of the choir and the OTC. On leaving Downside he obtained a commission in the West Guards and went on active service in May 1917. He was invalided home suffering from trench fever in September, returned to the front the following February and was killed in action in France on the 9th of March 1918 when his dug-out was shelled, killing him instantly. He was nineteen years of age.

Osmund Frederick Stapleton-Bretherton**Lancers**

Osmund came to Downside in May 1908 and left in July 1915. Both in appearance and character he was a typically English boy, cheerful and straightforward, and fond of all games and sport. At cricket he played successively in the Junior Eleven, the Second Eleven and the First Eleven, at Hockey in the Second Eleven and First Eleven, and Rugby in the Second Fifteen. He was a Caverel House Prefect, and represented the House in a variety of sporting competitions, and was a member of the Sacristy from 1910 to 1915. On leaving Downside he went to Sandhurst, was gazetted to the Lancers in July, 1916, and received promotion the following year. He was killed in action on the Western Front on March the 22nd, 1918, at the age of nineteen years.

George Francis Pauling, MC**Grenadier Guards**

George arrived at Downside in September 1906 and left in December 1907. Subsequently he went to Beaumont College, Old Windsor, whence he passed into Sandhurst in 1912. He was gazetted to the 17th Lancers in 1914, and exchanged into the Grenadier Guards in January 1916, as he wished to take a more prominent part in the fighting. In the following September he won the Military Cross at the Battle of the Somme. He was wounded in the Battle of Messines Ridge in 1917. After his recovery he returned to France on February 17th, 1918, and was killed in action near Arras, on the night of the 25th of March. He was twenty-three years of age.

James Haran Nash**1st Irish Guards**

George came to Downside in September 1908, and left in July 1915. He won silver medals in the shooting competitions of 1911 and 1912. Later on he played for the Second Rugby fifteen and for his House, Barlow, at Cricket, Football and Hockey. He took part in athletic sports and distinguished himself in many boxing contests. In May 1916 he was gazetted to the Irish Guards and received promotion in the following year. On the 27th March, after a heavy bombardment, the enemy attacked, but were easily repulsed. During the afternoon he was doing a bit of sniping and exposed himself too much. He was shot through the head by a machine gun bullet, and died instantaneously. He was twenty years of age.

John Barnard Morrall**Royal Warwickshire Regiment**

John, the great nephew of Dom Alphonsus Morrall, of Downside Abbey arrived at Downside in September 1892, and left in July 1898. He was a very able boy, was first in class and won many prizes all the way through the school. He was Librarian of the Peter Library, and took a prominent part in Abingdon Society debates. On leaving Downside, he spent some months in the Noviciate at Belmont, and afterwards distinguished himself as an artist. In January he joined the Artists' Rifles and went to France. He then obtained a commission in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, fought in five battles, and was wounded at Beaumont on March 23rd 1918. He was taken prisoner by the Germans, and died of his wounds four days later. He was thirty-nine years old.

Bernard Basil Joseph Butler-Bowdon**Lancashire Fusiliers**

Bernard came to Downside in September 1908, and left in February 1915. He was a member of Roberts House. After passing through Sandhurst he received a commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers, and was sent to the Western Front. In March 1918, after fighting at Fampoux, near Arras, he was reported missing. Later on he was officially presumed to have been killed in action during the engagement, on the 28th of March 1918. He was nineteen years of age.

Arthur Birt Hobdell**Wiltshire Regiment**

Arthur arrived at Downside in April 1903, and left the school in July 1911. He passed the Lower Certificate in Latin, Greek and French in 1910 and 1911 and was awarded the Junior Latin and Greek prizes. He played well at Hockey, and was a good boxer, and a keen member of the Natural History Club. On leaving Downside he went to Germany to learn the language. He remained there for two years, preparing for a career in diplomacy, when war broke out. Filled with a sense of duty he enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company on the very day war was declared. Later on he received a commission in the Wiltshire Regiment, and was twice wounded. When the great battle of March 1918 began, he was home on sick leave, and went back at once before being summoned. Whilst in command of a company of infantry, whilst crossing very exposed ground, he was shot in the stomach by a sniper and died on April the 16th, two days before his twenty-third birthday.

Gerard Ilyd Turnbull, MC**Welch Regiment**

Gerard came to Downside in January 1899 and left in July 1904. He took a conspicuous part in games and athletics of every kind, being a fair bat and an excellent fielder at Cricket, a good forward in the Hockey team, and at Football the best half-back in a generation. In August 1914, on the outbreak of war, he offered himself to the Honourable Artillery Company, but was medically rejected. Eventually he joined the Inns Court OTC in 1915, obtained a commission in the Welch Regiment, and went to France in October 1916. On the 21st of March 1918, he was wounded, but remained on duty. On April the 9th he was again wounded, this time severely, and was taken prisoner. He died in a German field lazarette on the 20th of April 1918, at the age of thirty-one. He was posthumously awarded the Military Cross.

John Eric Trevor-Jones, MC**10th Rifle Brigade**

John came to Downside in September 1906, and left in July 1914. He was a bright and capable boy of exceptional charm. He played for the second Eleven at Cricket, rendering good service with bat and ball, for the First Hockey Eleven and the First Fifteen Rugby team. He also took part in Aquatic and Tennis competitions. On leaving Downside he went to Clare College, Cambridge, and commenced his studies for the medical profession, to which he intended to devote his life. In January 1916, at the age of eighteen, he joined the Army, and was gazetted to the Rifle Brigade, becoming subsequently captain and adjutant. In July, 1916, he proceeded to France, shortly after the death of his older brother, who was killed at the Somme. In March 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field. He was killed in action on the 22nd April 1918, aged twenty years old.

Eustace Charles Lord.**Irish Guards**

Eustace arrived at Downside in May 1908, and left in March 1917. He was an able and high spirited boy, bright, cheerful and witty. He was a member of Caverel House, passed the lower certificate in 1913, with first classes in Latin and Greek, and the higher certificate in 1914, 1915, and 1916, gaining a History distinction in 1916. On leaving Downside, Eustace immediately commenced his military training, and four months later received his commission in the Irish Guards before proceeding to the Western Front in October 1917. After taking part with credit in the fighting against the enemy attack in the following March,

he was killed in the early morning of May the 8th, by an explosion caused by a German shell. He was nineteen years of age at the time of his death.

Henry Eric Dolan

Royal Air Force

Henry arrived at Downside in September 1909 and left in July 1913, in which he passed his Higher Certificate. He played Association Football in the First Eleven, 1911-12, and Rugby in the First Fifteen in 1913. In this latter year he also played in the Cricket and Hockey Elevens. At the outbreak of war Henry was in Canada, and at once joined the First Canadian Contingent, arriving in England in October 1914. In November he obtained a commission in the Royal Field Artillery, and went to France in August 1915. He took part in fighting on the Somme, was twice wounded, and was awarded the Military Cross. In April 1917, he joined the Royal Air Force, but was in hospital a good deal, off and on, with trench fever, and did not get to France with his squadron until April 1918. Whilst on an offensive patrol on the evening of the 12th of May his squadron engaged a number of German aircraft from which Henry did not return from. He was twenty-two years old.

Edward Robert Seymour Prior, DSO, MC

South Lancashire Regiment

Edward arrived at Downside in September 1905 and left in July 1908. His school life was happy and uneventful. He was a good natured, undemonstrative, entirely friendly boy who got on well with everybody. By the time of the Great War he had developed into a superb soldier and a brilliant, successful and popular officer. He held the rank of Captain in 1916, of Major early in 1917, and became Lt Col later the same year. He was awarded the MC, Bar to the MC and the DSO, and was mentioned in dispatches several times. Edward was seriously wounded on the afternoon of April the 29th, and was taken out of a little village south of Aisne just in time to avoid capture. It is almost certain, though not official, that he died a few hours later. He was 28 years old

Noel Edward Joseph Carroll Leahy

Royal Field Artillery

Noel was educated at Ladycross and Downside from September 1912, to July 1915. He played in the Second Football Fifteen in 1914, and for his House, Barlow, at Hockey in 1915. After passing through Woolwich, he received a commission in the Royal Field Artillery in May 1916, and went to the Western Front. He was killed in action in France on August the 9th, at the age of nineteen.

Louis Mary John Belloc**Royal Engineers**

Louis arrived at Downside in September 1911, and left in June 1915. He was an able, talented and versatile young man. He was a member of Caverel House, which he represented at Hockey. He also sometimes played Hockey for both the Second and First Eleven. In 1913 and 1914 he passed his Higher Certificate, and in the summer of 1915 was placed eighteenth in the examination for the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, which he entered shortly after. Later on he was gazetted to the Royal Engineers, and went to France, where he was injured. He joined the Royal Air Force and was killed in action before Cambrai, on the 26th of August, 1918, at the age of twenty.

Private Francis Leteux**Machine Gun Corps**

Francis was educated at Downside from December 1879, till July 1883. On leaving the school he went with another Downside boy to the United States, where a career of strenuous activity and adventure awaited him. Desirous of serving in the war, although fifty years of age, he enlisted in the Canadian Army, in May 1917. After a period of training in Kent, he was graded A1 in health, and was transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps. He sailed for France, his native land, on January 27th 1918, and was killed in action on September the 2nd. He was fifty-two years of age.

John M. Tidmarsh West Riding Regiment (Attached Royal Air Force)

John came to Downside in September, 1905, and left in April 1910. At school he took part with success in athletics. After leaving Downside he spent a short time at Wimbledon College, and then proceeded to Sandhurst. He passed into the Army in 1913, being gazetted to the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. After service in Ireland and India he joined the Royal Air Force. In August he was appointed Instructor at Doncaster, and whilst occupying that position was killed in a flying accident on September the 3rd, 1918, aged 25.

Lt Charles Edmund Bellord**Royal Air Force**

Charles was educated at Downside between September 1910 and July 1916. He was a boy of a very English type, plucky and straightforward, somewhat shy and reserved, but with much strength of character and quiet humour. He was a member of Caverel House. Aged eighteen he volunteered for the Royal Air Force, and after 6 weeks of training was sent

to France in August 1918. About 6 weeks later he took part with 6 other planes in an air fight over Metz and was killed in action on the 15th of September, aged 18.

Lt Hugh Archibald O'Farrell

Irish Guards

Hugh arrived at Downside in September 1908 and left in July 1918. He was a clever and capable boy who took part in many school activities. He played for the First Football Fifteen and the Second Eleven Hockey team. He was appointed a Caverel House prefect in 1916, and a School Prefect. Head of Caverel House, and Head of School in 1917. He was gazetted to the Irish Guards in February 1918, and went to the front in the following May. He was killed in action in France, on September the 27th, 1918, at the age of nineteen.

Demetrius Frederick Green

5th Northumberland Fusiliers

Demetrius received his early education at Stoneyhurst, came to Downside in September 1897, and left in July 1900. He was Librarian of the Peter Library, and secretary of the Abingdon Society in 1899 and 1900. During his last year at school he played for the Hockey and Cricket Elevens. On leaving the school he spent several years in India before returning to England in 1910 and obtained a commission in the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1914, seeing much active service. In 1917, whilst on leave he was taken ill with influenza, followed by pneumonia, and died on October the 15th, 1918. He was thirty-five years old.

Charles Philip Friend

Royal Field Artillery

Charles came to Downside in October 1902, and left in July 1910. He passed his Higher Certificate in 1909 and 1910, with distinction in Spanish. He played in the Second Cricket Eleven and was a useful member of the choir. On leaving Downside he went to New College Oxford. After the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Field Artillery, and was sent to the front. In September 1916, he was wounded during the fighting near the Somme, being shot through the right lung. After recovering from his wound he was appointed to an official position in Spain, where he died of pneumonia on October the 15th 1918. He was twenty-six years of age.

Arthur Eric McMurrough Cuming, MC**1st Royal Irish Fusiliers**

Arthur arrived at Downside in January, 1912, and left in June, 1915. He played in the Second Cricket Eleven and the First Football Fifteen. He represented Caverel House in a number of sports and in 1915 won the First Division prize and the School Challenge cup for boxing. After passing through Sandhurst, he received a commission in the Royal Irish Fusiliers and was sent to the front, where he saw much fighting. In the summer of 1918 he awarded both the Military Cross and bar. On October the 21st he was wounded in action at Courtrai, and died in a British Red Cross Hospital five days later. He was twenty years of age.

John Charles Woollett**Royal Air Force**

John was educated at Downside from September 1901 and July 1905. In October 1914 he joined the 6th London Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery, and later transferred to the Royal Air Force, in which he held the rank of captain at the time of his death, from pneumonia, on the 16th of November, 1918. He was twenty-seven years of age.

Clement Chamberlain Cafferata**Canadian Forestry Corps**

Clement came to Downside in April 1896 and left in July 1905. At school he excelled in Natural History Studies. He was also looked upon by his companions as an authority on angling. He was also a very keen long-distance runner. During the war he served in the Canadian Forestry Corps, and was in France for over two years. He died in a military hospital at Eastbourne, on February the 8th, 1919, aged thirty-three.

Louis Joseph S Weld Blundell**Queen's Westminster Rifles**

Louis was educated at Downside and Beaumont. He was in the School at Downside from September 1902 to April 1905, and was a promising football player. He had a fine voice, and after leaving school studied singing in Paris and Milan. When war broke out, he enlisted in the Kings Liverpool Regiment and afterwards transferred to the Queen's Westminster rifles. He fought in Salonica and Palestine and France throughout the duration of the war, but whilst on his way home to be demobilised was taken ill with pneumonia, and died in hospital in Dunkirk on the 8th of February 1919, aged twenty-nine.