



Barton Stacey Parish Local History Group

THE GREAT WAR
CENTENARY
1914-1918
2014-2018



BARTON STACEY REMEMBERS

Barton Stacey Chamber Choir

**AN EVENING PRESENTATION BY THE
BARTON STACEY PARISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
to mark
THE CENTENARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR 1.**

Friday 13 June 2014 in All Saints' Church, Barton Stacey.

<u>Introduction.</u>	Lee Hazard	
<u>Barton Stacey parish in WW1, its soldiers and their families.</u>	Lin Moffatt	see separate file
<u>Lancelot Hillier's story.</u>	Stuart Rippon	p.2
Break		
<u>Victor Cook's story.</u>	Peter Wood	see separate file
<u>The War Memorial in All Saints' Church.</u>	Alan Longden	see separate file
Barton Stacey Chamber Choir: 'My Soul There is a Country' followed by selection of WW1 soldiers' songs.		
<u>Concluding remarks.</u>	Lee Hazard	



LANCELOT DAVID HILLIER

Stuart Rippon

Slide 1

Sgt Lancelot David Hillier

1887 - 1919



I'm going to cover the war experience for Sergeant Lancelot David Hillier. It's been a great privilege to research him and as I dug into his war I uncovered a side of WW1 I had not expected. Lancelot is one of the two Soldiers from WW1 Buried in our graveyard. But first thank you to Paul Jenkins for hours of work renovating these graves. Paul no longer lives in Barton Stacey and is looking for someone local to take this on – grab Paul in the break if you can help. These graves live just off the path toward the rear gate.



Slide 2

Lancelot was born in 1887 in Codford, Wiltshire – some of you may know the village



Slide 3

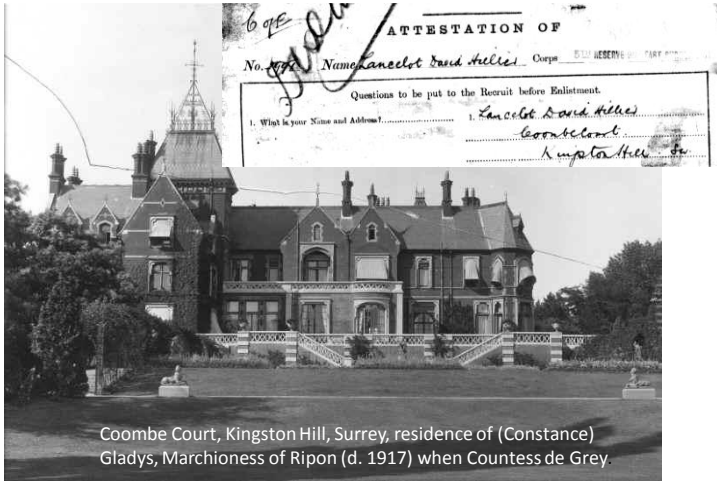
because of the Australian memorial carved in the chalk hill by the large number of Australians that were stationed there is WW1.





Slide 8 (NB attestation papers will appear after 4 seconds)

Downton Abbey and the Forsyth Saga



Coombe Court, Kingston Hill, Surrey, residence of (Constance) Gladys, Marchioness of Ripon (d. 1917) when Countess de Grey

As a domestic servant Lancelot moved up in the world and when he joined the Army he was working in service in Coombe Court – Kingston on Thames

For those of you who followed the Forsyth Saga or Downton Abbey – Lancelot lived the story

Coombe court was a playground for Royals, Aristocrats and celebrities. Edward VII and Queen Alexandra used to regularly drive over from Windsor across the park. The Forsyth Saga was written about the place.

Lady Ripon made Covent Garden opera house fashionable again and introduced Dame Nelli Melba one of the stars of the time

to society.... Dame Nellie is played by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa in Downton Abbey.

Whilst working here Lancelot met and married his wife Annie Colee in 1915 in Islington. Although they married in London she was born in Haydock Lancashire the daughter of Robert Colee and Annie Maria Mileman.

Annie moved back from London to Haydock before the end of the war. I don't believe they had any children and I have as yet not found a remarriage for Annie.

His link to Barton Stacey

Lancelot's father (John) was apprenticed initially as a carpenter (his father was a woodman)
 In 1891 John was a police constable in the Wiltshire force one of the first in the UK



Ye Olde Stream Inn and Store



By 1911 John had left the force and was running a beer house and shop in Longparish – **Ye Olde Stream Inn**

While Lancelot was in the forces John ran the Plough Inn Barton Stacey and was on the Parish Council



SLIDE 9 So how did Lancelot come to be on our memorial and buried in Barton Stacey.... Although his father John was originally apprenticed as a carpenter by 1891 he is a police constable in the Wiltshire force. By 1911 John had left the force and was running a beer house and shop in Longparish called “Ye Olde Stream Inn” – I have not managed to find out where this was to date but I think it was probably by the crossroads near the plough and the chapel. While Lancelot was in the forces his father and sister moved to Barton Stacey and John took over the Plough Inn and was on the Parish Council.

He died in the village in 1917 and is buried in the churchyard near to Lancelot

As war approached the Hillier family was growing with Reuben, Laurence's brother marrying Ellen Codden in 1908 in Swindon – they had at least 3 children while Lancelot was alive.

Lancelot signed up for the territorial force in Wimbledon in 1914 and married Annie in 1915and his sister Mary Ann otherwise known here as Queenie (in Barton Stacey) married Albert Thomas Truman Doswell (known as Tom or Shaver) in 1917. Mary and Alfreds sons “Blondie” and Lot lived in Kings Elms – I know some of you know this family



SLIDE 11

TERRITORIAL FORCE.
 A Force for Service in the United Kingdom.
ATTESTATION OF
 No. 697 Name Lancelot David Hillier Corp. _____

Questions to be put to the recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name and address? Lancelot David Hillier
Wimbledon

2. Are you willing to be enlisted for service in the Territorial Force for the term of a year commencing on the 14th day of December 1914? Yes

3. Have you received a notice directing the enlistment and containing particulars of the conditions of service? Yes

4. Are you now being or have you ever acted in the United Kingdom in any capacity which is incompatible with the duties of a member of the Territorial Force? No

Under the provisions of Sections 17 and 18 of the Army Act, if a person intentionally makes a false answer to any question contained in the questions paper, he makes himself liable to punishment.

Lancelot David Hillier I solemnly declare that the above answers made by me are true and correct, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made by me.

L. D. Hillier SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT

WITNESSED BY SIGNATURE OF AUTHORITY

Lancelot David Hillier I solemnly swear, that I will be faithful and true to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, in His Majesty's service, honestly and faithfully do His Majesty's duty to the best of my power, and I fight against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR AUTHORITY OFFICER

Lancelot David Hillier I hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing questions were put to the recruit, given answers, that the recruit writes, appears to have no other engagements to me, and that he has made and signed the Declaration, and taken the oath, at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 1914.

L. D. Hillier Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized by the War Office.

If any answer is required on this part of the certificate, a copy of the questions and answers as required in each case shall be sent to the War Office, at the address mentioned in the questions paper, by the person named in the questions paper.

He joined the Territorial Force on 14th December 1914

And he signed up for overseas service at the same time

AGREEMENT to be made by an officer or man of the Territorial Force to subject himself to liability to serve in any place outside the United Kingdom in the event of National Emergency.

I (No.) 542 000 (Rank) Private
 (Name) Lancelot David Hillier of the
 (Unit) 1st Battalion 1st West Surrey Bde. do hereby agree,
 subject to the conditions stated attached, to accept liability, in the event of national emergency, to serve in any place outside the United Kingdom, in accordance with the provisions of Section 212 (2)(a) of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act, 1908.

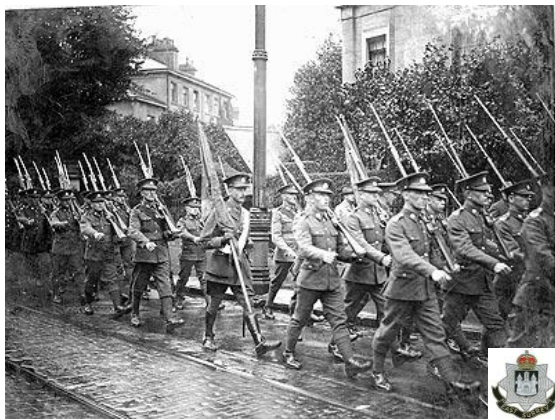
Lancelot David Hillier
 Signature of Officer or Man.

Date 14 Dec 1914

He joined up in Wimbledon 14 Dec 1914 and at the same time he agreed to service overseas. As a member of the Territorial force you had signed up for home service (the home guard) and not signed to serve overseas. With the exception of a small number, members usually accepted liability for overseas service as you can see Lancelot did that at the same time as he initially signed up. Overseas service was still optional for the territorials up until a few years ago.

Slide 12

Life in the Territorial Force



East Surrey territorials marching from Surbiton to Kingston upon Thames on a recruiting march.

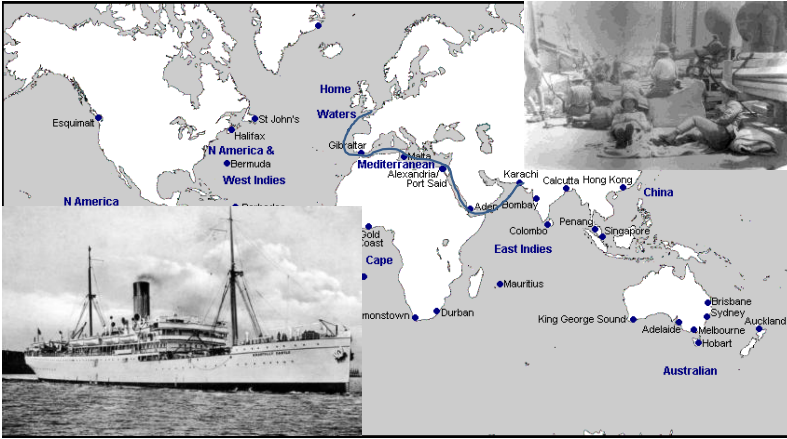
Lancelot joined the East Surrey's shortly after the first territorial battalion had departed to India to backfill the regulars that were needed back in Europe. He would have had his training and undertaken territorial duties and was posted in November 1915 to the 3/5th Bn which had been raised in Wimbledon in August, its nucleus consisting of 5 officers and 107 other ranks. They engaged mainly on recruiting and had by March 1916 made sufficient progress to send 7 officers and 375 other ranks overseas to join the 1/5th Battalion in India - Lancelot was one of them.

We have to assume Lancelot was part of this recruitment campaign and probably one of the original 107 other ranks.



Slides 13& 14 (NB ship sails for 15 seconds then changes to a blue line)

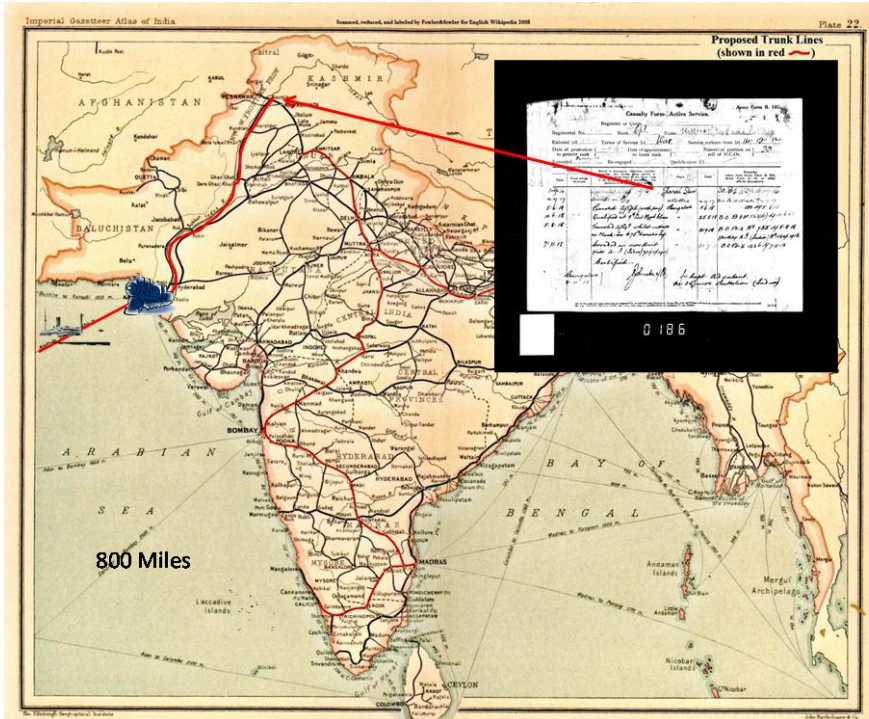
The long trip to India early 1916



Lancelot would have boarded a troop ship for the long voyage to India travelling in the English Uniforms they had been issued with plus a hat - tropical gear not being available until they landed – so it was likely to be a warm trip.

The sights of Egypt and the Middle East would have been a surprise along the way before arriving in India. There only preparation, the briefings from their officers given on the way covering, sun precautions – always wear your hat, Type of people they would see, the various casts, type of place

they were going to, to be friendly with the indians, also told to learn as much of the language as possible – how to look after yourself – cleanliness and keeping away from the women.



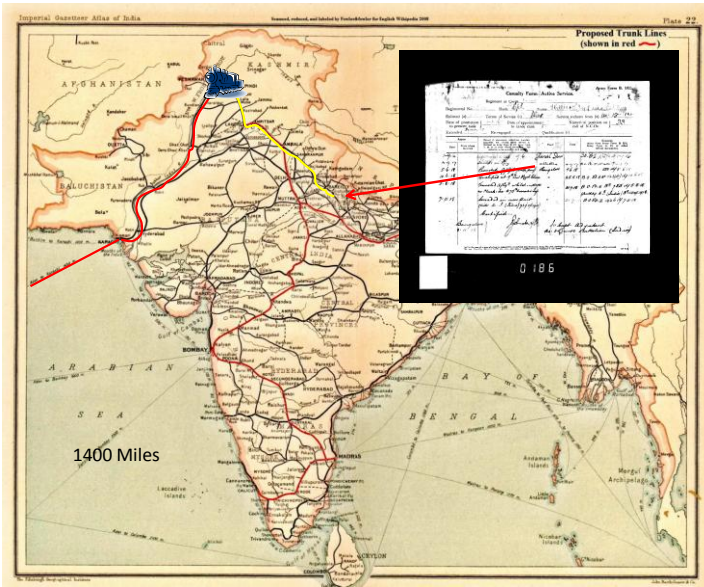
Slide 15 On Posting to India he moved to the 1/5th and reverted to private (I have to say I'm not totally sure why he could have been a naughty boy but his record looks clean so it could have resulted from moving to a service regiment from his previous role) In any case he rose back through the ranks again to make Sergeant by the time he returned home. You would be amazed by his travels around India and what is now Pakistan.

He would probably have landed in Kharachi some 1000 miles from his first posting-

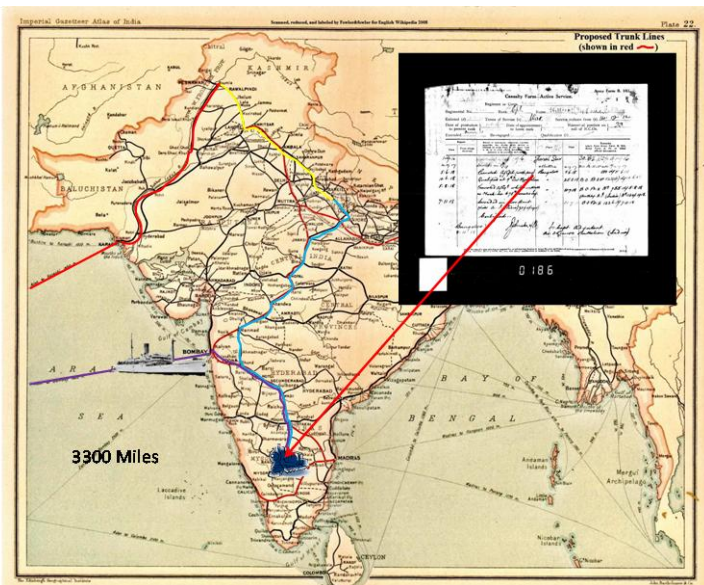
Ghrial Spur – in the Punjab now Pakistan – and still a military base today - (think of the old Errol Flynn movies about the Bengal lancers,) Later posting to Peshawar gateway to the Kyber pass and close enough to Karbul to have fought there.



SLIDE 16



Around August 1917 he moved to Muthra and Bareilly in Utter Pradesh (near to Delhi) – on the far eastern side of India!!! 1100 miles from the Kyber Pass. He would have marched and taken trains to make these trips. The regiment was mobilised from here to Mesopotamia (Iraq) where they fought in places we know well Basra, Bagdad and the like, they fought and eventually defeated the Turks – Lancelot did not join them.....



Slides 17&18

Instead shortly after he moved to Bangalore right in the South again more than 1300 miles away. And spent the rest of his time here and in the Madras area.

SLIDE 18 And eventually he went back to Bombay for his journey home – just 600 miles away In total he had travelled over 4000 miles in India.

Lancelot the Musketeer



Slide 19 - Lancelot was a musketeer. In mid 1918 when he was stationed in Bangalore he trained and developed his skills as a musketeer qualifying as an instructor towards the end of 1918 when he was training Indian soldiers of the 75th Carnatic infantry part of one of India's oldest regiments – 2nd battalion the madras regiment. They took part in the Mesopotamia Campaign and fighting in Kurdistan in 1919 So why did he do this rather than joining the regiment in Mesopotamia.....



Lancelot's health

Table II - Only for Admissions to Hospital

Name of Hospital	Admitted to Hospital			Discharged from Hospital			Disease
	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year	
General Hospital	2	6	16	12	7	16	Scalp of Head
General Hospital	11	1	17	9	2	17	Scalp of Head
General Hospital	2	2	17	21	2	17	Scalp of Head
General Hospital	13	6	17	17	6	17	Malaria
General Hospital	24	8	17	28	6	17	Dysentery
General Hospital	11	11	17	13	12	17	Internal Derangement

Lancelot had a large number of long stays in Hospital in India

- Eczema
- Malaria (twice)
- Dysentery
- Syphilis (he denied infection)
- Knee injury?
- Others I can't decipher

SLIDE 20 Well Lancelot appears to have spent a considerable amount of time in hospital This might support the common assumption that the territorials were formed from less healthy men. I cant say - but over his tour he visited hospitals in most of the places he was stationed in which luckily has enhanced our picture on what he did and where he went.

Most of his spells in hospital were quite lengthy starting with 6 weeks for Scalp problem on his first posting. He had weeks in hospital with tropical problems with Malaria, Dysentery and open sores However it looks like it was his Knee injury that prevented him mobilising with the rest of the regiment in November 1917 to go to Mesopotamia.

He looks to have a least 3 spells in hospital with this problem – the diagnosis of internal derangement sounds like ligament injuries very common in marching solders..... And most probably made him unfit for the hard trudge through Iraq.

SLIDE 21 His journey home was not good. He left India in January 1919 but we cant tell what the state of his health was at that time. What is clear is that by the time he arrived in the UK he was already gravely ill and was transferred directly to hospital.

SLIDE 22 His condition worsened and his family were informed at 9:55 on the 1st march that he was gravely ill however he his death was reported at 12:28 He had died just a few days after landing from complications from the flu

The medical report shows he died of heart failure following complications from pneumonia following the flu – this would not have been a heart attach rather just organ failure



Slide 23



I should explain a little about the Flu.

This pandemic was devastating more than 50,000,000 people died world wide in the outbreak which cruelly struck young healthy people, turning their strong immune systems against them in a way that's not normal for flu

Young soldiers were in camps at close quarters possibly suffering from fatigue were particularly susceptible and died in large numbers. It was called the Spanish flu because Spain was neutral in WW1 and published the full impact of the flu in terms of numbers effected and

deaths - but this was censored in allied countries so people only heard about Spain and assumed it started there

SLIDE 24

After his death His effects were listed, boxed and packed

Matches, the dentures he'd had made in India, pieces of soapand eventually 5 months later returned to his wife in Haydock to sign for their receipt.

The return of his effects

→ 5 Months

Officer i/c Records,
No.1. Record Office,
No.10. District,
Huddersfield.

6/8/1919

Herewith please receive articles belonging to the late No. 201065, Sgt. L.B. Hillier, 1st West Surrey Regt. as follows :-

- One Pipe
- Tobacco Pouch
- Cigarette Case
- Shaving Soap
- Shaving Brush
- Safety Razor
- Silk Handkerchief
- Brush & Comb
- Tooth Brush & Powder
- Sail Cleaner
- Fountain Pen
- Pocket Knife
- Soap Box & Looking Glass
- Hat Badge
- Pair Gloves
- Boots
- Underwear
- Shirt
- Underpants
- Pair Socks
- Bottle Soothing Salts
- Woollets
- Dentures
- Piece Soap
- Packets Cigarettes
- Box Matches
- Cardigan

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

J. Spratey

5/3/19

Army Form B. 104-126.

Any subject's name, rank, grade, and the following No. quoted.

Station Hannwell

Date 8.8.1919

To Mrs. Hillier From 010
334 Millfield Lane, Doonhamby
Haydock, St Helens Hannwell

SIR OR MADAM, St Helens

I am directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private property of the late No. 201065 Rank Sgt.
Name Lancelot B Hillier
Regiment West Surrey

and would ask that you will kindly acknowledge receipt of the same on the form overleaf:-

One pipe, Pouch, Cigarettes, Shaving Soap, Brush, Silk Hat, Brown Coat, Tooth Powder, Pen, Knife, Soap, Box, Looking Glass, Badge, Socks, Book, Underwear, Salk, Wallet, Menture, Cigarettes, Matches, Cardigan.

These are the only articles at present forthcoming, but should any further articles, be received at any time they will be duly forwarded.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

Officer in charge of Records.

W142-M2016 250,000 10/17 H.W.V.1260 Form B/104-126/1

Army Form B. 104-126.

Place Haydock

Date August 20th 1919

SIR,

I have to acknowledge receipt of the articles as stated overleaf.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

(Sign here) Annie Hillier

The Officer i/c Records,
Station Hannwell

Slide 25 His brother "Albert" and father "John" had already died by his death and he was survived by his brother Reuben and his three children (Sydney, Gladys and Leslie) and Sister Mary Ann now a Doswell with a baby boy she had named Lancelot Doswell presumably in his honour.

I still have some work to do to understand who all the other relatives are and the cousin Arthur mentioned on his grave

If you're a relative then please let us know so we can keep you informed as our research continues. Please let us know if you have any photographs, additions or corrections. Thank you.