

Salisbury Cathedral

Roll of Honour



Lest we Forget

World War I



CAPTAIN

C. KEN MEREWETHER

WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

20TH DECEMBER, 1917 AGE 27

A Good Soldier

Of Jesus Christ

Christopher Ken MEREWETHER

Christopher Ken Merewether was born at North Bradley Vicarage, Wiltshire on 26th May, 1890 to parents Wyndham Arthur Scinde Mereweather & Harriot Edith Merewether (nee Fox). Christopher Ken Merewether's birth was registered in the district of Westbury W. which included North Bradley, Wiltshire in the June quarter of 1890. His birth registration is shown as "Male" Merewether. Christopher's parents had married in the district of St. George Hanover Square, London in the September quarter, 1888.

The 1891 Census recorded Christopher K. Merewether as an 11 month old baby living with his parents at The Vicarage, North Bradley, Wiltshire. His parents were listed as Wyndham A. S. Merewether (Clerk in Holy Orders, aged 38, born Lacock) & Harriett E. Merewether (aged 26, born Middlesex, London W.). Also listed was William Everingham, a visitor (Clerk in Holy Orders, widower, aged 35) & Phyllis H. Wells, a Parlour Maid (aged 19).

The 1901 Census recorded Ken Merewether as a 10 year old pupil at a Private School on High Street, Rottingdean, Sussex. Charles Edward F. Stanford was listed as the Headmaster of the Preparatory School. The school was St Aubyns, which was founded in 1895 as a boys' boarding prep school. Christopher Ken Merewether's parents were still living at The Vicarage, Church Lane, North Bradley in the 1901 Census.



St. Aubyns School

The 1903 Kelly's Directory listed Rev. Wyndham Arthur Scinde Merewether, M.A. of The Vicarage, North Bradley. The Rev. Merewether had been at St. Nicholas' since 1885.

Christopher Ken Merewether attended Winchester College & became Head of the House, a Commoner Prefect and a member of Sixth Book. He played in Commoner XV in 1908 and in both 2nd XI's (cricket and football) in 1909.

In 1909 Christopher Ken Merewether went to Oriel College, Oxford, where he took Honours in Modern History and gained his half-blue for hockey.

The 1911 Census recorded Christopher Ken Merewether as a 20 year old Undergraduate Student living with his parents at The Vicarage, 7 Church Street, Bradford-On-Avon, Wiltshire, which had 13 rooms. Christopher Ken Merewether was an only child & his parents had been married for 22 years. His parents were listed as Wyndham Arthur Seinde Merewether (Clerk in Holy Orders, aged 58) & Harriot Edith Merewether (aged 46). Also listed was Wyndham's sister-in-law – Adeline Elizabeth Wilson Fox (aged 41) There were 3 servants also listed – Agnes Fanny Culveshouse (Housemaid, aged 31), Alice Amelia Knight Parlour Maid, aged 28) & Edith Annie Barner (Cook, aged 21).



The Vicarage, Church Street, Bradford-on-Avon

From *The London Standard*, London – Wednesday January 15, 1913:

Oxford University V. Dublin University

Yesterday Oxford University opened their Hilary term fixtures by entertaining Dublin University at Oxford, and, after a somewhat vigorous game, defeated the visitors by 3 goals to 2. In the first half Oxford University scored all three goals through Kirby and Hosie (twice). After crossing over, however, the Irish forwards displayed better combination, and, after some fine play, O'Reilly and Rushman scored. The teams were:— Oxford University—D. A. Clarke (Uppingham and Magdalen), goal; H. Watkins (Monmouth and Hertford) and G. B. Brown (Bowden and New College), backs; A. F. H. Wiggin (Felsted and Oriel), C. K. Merewether (Winchester and Oriel), and C. K. Weller (Felsted and St. John's), halfbacks; K. A. I. Mackenzie (Repton and Trinity), A. L. Hosie (St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, and Magdalen), A. C. Kirby (Repton and Balliol), G. W. Grasset (Hereford and Brasenose) and R. Q. Cruttwell (Burton and St. John's), forwards. Dublin University.— C. P. Kelly, goal; R. H. Jones and W. P. Croker, backs; G. N. Birch, H. P. Groves, and A. W. Orr, half-backs; W. Foot, H. V. Hampton, A. N. J. Rushman, C. O'Reilly, and F. H. Hall, forwards.

From *The London Standard*, London – Thursday February 27, 1913:

Hockey Record

Victory of Cambridge Over Oxford

Cambridge University allayed all fears as to the possibility of their taking the field against Oxford handicapped by staleness, by a handsome victory at Beckenham yesterday by seven goals to two. This is the largest margin by which an inter-University match has been won, and although the half-time score was one goal each, the Light Blues may be said to have outclassed the opposition throughout. S. H. Saville, the captain, set his team an admirable example by playing magnificently at inside right. He was at once speedy, resourceful, and artistic, and he made his passes perfectly to both right and left. R. W. Stevenson at outside right had a fine understanding with his captain, and showed almost phenomenal speed in the taking up of hard forward passes, whilst A. H. A. Vann, the centre, improved vastly on his display of last year's match. At inside left B. P. Nevill, when once he settled down played with fine dash and enthusiasm, and accomplished some brilliant shooting, but J. M. A. Kendall, the outside left, was not up to the form of his colleagues, being too much addicted to one-handed play, and keeping too much to the touchline when it would have been to the advantage of his side for him to work his way in.

LAGDEN IN FORM.

It is questionable whether the Cambridge halfback line has ever played a better game. R. B. Lagden, in the centre, was the outstanding man, and valuable alike in attack and defence, his control of the ball, whether in the air or on the ground, being a feature of the pace, whilst his anticipation of his opponent's moves lifted his game above the ordinary. L. F. W. A. Kendall played very pretty and effective hockey at right half, and on the left T. G. Fowler, the Rugby Blue, was quite first class in his tackling. The half-backs took so much responsibility off the full-backs that the latter were not heavily pressed. Both C. Patleson and S. C. Pair, however, did well, and especially the former, in the way of sending the ball through to the forwards. As on the Oxford side, the goalkeeping was not impressive, and it appeared as if W. J. A. Whyte might have stopped the shot with which the Dark Blues scored. He made one or two good saves subsequently, but neither he nor D. A. Clarke made a deep impression by the manner in which they shaped at the ball.

A BROKEN DEFENCE.

Compared with Cambridge Oxford gave a ragged and fitful display. They did well to keep the game so close in the first half, but the interval score undoubtedly flattered them. Their left defence was overwhelmed by Saville and Stevenson, and so ineffective was C. K. Waller at left half that it must be assumed he had not fully recovered from his recent injury. A. F. H. Wieglin did some attractive things at right half, and C. K. Merewether was industrious without being distinguished at centre half; whilst both the full backs were overburdened with work and can be said to have had little chance. The forward line promised well, but gradually became ragged and did not maintain the pace. There were possibilities in the dangerous rushes of A. L. Hosie, but A. C. Kirby, the other football Blue, was an indecisive and unreliable centre forward. Altogether Cambridge were a better class team, with a good understanding, plenty of pace, and infinite resource. The victory enabled the Light Blues to take a lead of eleven matches to ten on the series, three games having been left drawn.

Christopher Ken Merewether had been selected by the directors of the White Star Line for training as an assistant manager, and was working in their offices when the war broke out. On mobilisation he joined the Wiltshire Territorial battalion, in which he had for some years held a commission, and accompanied them to India and Palestine.

From *The London Gazette* – Tuesday 19th January, 1915:

The undermentioned appointments are made:

Personal Staff – Aides de Camp-

Lieutenant C. K. Merewether, 4th Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment), Territorial Forces, vice Lieutenant J. N. Carson, Dated 27th October, 1914.

ALSO

4th Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment); Lieutenant Christopher K. Merewether is seconded, under the conditions of Paragraph 112, Territorial Force Regulations. Dated 27th October, 1914.

From *The London Gazette* – 22nd August, 1916:

The undermentioned Lts. to be temp. Capts:

C. K. Merewether, and to remain seconded. 3rd Nov. 1915.

From *The London Gazette* – 14th November, 1916:

Wiltshire Regt. – Lt. (temp. Capt.) C. K. Merewether is restored to the establishment. 22nd Nov. 1914.

From *The London Gazette* – 19th April, 1917:

Lt. (temp Capt.) C. K. Merewether to be Capt., with precedence as from 1st June, 1916. 20th April, 1917.

On November 13th 1917, he fell wounded while leading an assault on a strongly fortified enemy position at El Mesmiyeh and died in hospital at Port Said on December 20th, 1917.

Captain Christopher Ken Merewether died of wounds on 20th December, 1917, aged 27 years at 31st General Hospital, Port Said.

Captain Christopher Ken Merewether was buried in Port Said War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt – Grave reference C. 31. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone. The CWGC lists Captain Christopher Ken Merewether as the son of the Rev. Canon Wyndham Arthur Seinde Merewether and Harriot Edith Merewether of Langton House, Salisbury. Native of North Bradley, Wilts.

Newspaper Death Notice:

Died Of Wounds

Merewether – On the 19th Dec., 1917 of wounds received in action 13th Nov., 1917. Christopher Ken Merewether, Captain, Wiltshire Regiment, only child of the Rev. W.A.S. Merewether, M.A., Vicar of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Salisbury, and grandson of the late Henry Alworth Merewether, Q.C., Bowden Hill, Chippenham, Wilts, aged 27. (The Times, London – Saturday Dec. 29, 1917)

Obituary:

Captain Christopher Ken Merewether, Wiltshire Regiment, who died on December 19 of wounds received on November 13, was born at North Bradley Vicarage in 1890. He was educated at St. Aubyn's, Rottingdean and Winchester College, where he was in the senior division sixth book and head of his house (the Rev. J. T. Bramston's). He matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford, took honours in modern history and when leaving the university was selected by the directors of the White Star Line of Liverpool for training as an assistant manager. After passing through the O.T.C. at Winchester he was appointed to the command of the Bradford-on-Avon half-company of the Wilts Territorials, and on the outbreak of war he left his appointment with the White Star Company and joined the Wiltshire Regiment, with which he served continuously from August, 1914, until his death. Captain Merewether took a prominent place in all school games, played for his college eleven, was a member of Vincent's and the Authentics Cricket Club, and at hockey represented Oxford University against Cambridge. He was an original member of the Cavendish Club, London. Captain Merewether was the only child of the Rev. W.A.S. Merewether, vicar of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Salisbury, and grandson of the late Henry Alworth Merewether, Q.C., of Bowden Hill, Chippenham, formerly chairman of the Wiltshire Quarter Sessions and Recorder of Devizes. (The Times, London – Saturday Dec. 29, 1917)

Captain Christopher Ken Merewether was entitled to the 1915 Star, British War & Victory Medals. His Medal Index Card does not show when he had entered a Theatre of War. His Medal Index Card also states "Ineligible for 1914 Star" which his father W. Merewether had applied for in respect of the services of his son Capt. C. K. Merewether. Records also show that Capt. Merewether was attached to 4th Battalion (Territorial) of Wiltshire Regiment. Captain Merewether's Medal Index Card states date of death as "20.12.17" but his death notice & obituary in *The Times* newspaper state date of death as 19th December, 1917.

Probate was granted on 20 June, 1918 at Salisbury –

“Merewether Christopher Ken of Langton House, Salisbury. Captain 4th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died 20 December 1917 of wounds at 31st General Hospital, Port Said, Egypt. Administration Salisbury – 20 June, 1918 to the Reverend Wyndham Arthur Scrinde Merewether clerk. Effects £374 19s. 8d.”



Christopher Ken Merewether

(Photo & information regarding his Education & Army details courtesy of Suzanne Foster – [Winchester College at War](#))

Christopher Ken Merewether is remembered in Winchester College War Cloister – Outer C6.



Winchester College War Cloister

C. K. Merewether is remembered as a Casualty of WW1 in the Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book for Salisbury Cathedral & Bradford-On-Avon.

C. K. Merewether is also remembered on the Holy Trinity Church, Bradford-on-Avon - World War 1 Casualties.



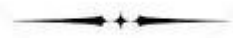
Holy Trinity Church WW 1 War Memorial, Bradford-on-Avon



Battlefield Cross for Capt. C. K. Merewether in Salisbury Cathedral (Photo courtesy of Michael Day)

*This Cross
Marked the Grave in Port Said Cemetery of
Capt. Christopher Ken Merewether
who died in Hospital at Port Said Dec. 20th 1917
of Wounds received in Action in Palestine
Aged 27
Only child of Canon Wyndham A. S. Merewether*

The [Wardrobe](#) – Home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire have several photos of Captain Christopher Ken Merewether that can be purchased.



Port Said War Memorial Cemetery

Port Said War Memorial Cemetery is situated on the western outskirts of the town on the strip of land between the Mediterranean Sea and Lake Manzala.

Port Said, at the northern outlet of the Suez Canal, was an important hospital centre during the First World War. From May-November 1915, it received wounded from Gallipoli and later from operations in Egypt and Palestine. In February 1916, Port Said contained No 31 General Hospital, No 15 Stationary Hospital and No 26 Casualty Clearing Station. The New Zealand Stationary Hospital and No 14 Australian General Hospital came later.

The cemetery was begun in October 1914 and was slightly increased after the Armistice when graves were brought in from other cemeteries. The burials include 15 unidentified from the crew of the oil tanker "Tatarax" which was torpedoed in August 1918.

During the Second World War, Port Said was a sector headquarters for the fighter defence of the canal. Most of the burials from this period were made from the hospitals and a transit camp in the area, but later on, some graves were moved in from other cemeteries where permanent maintenance could not be assured.

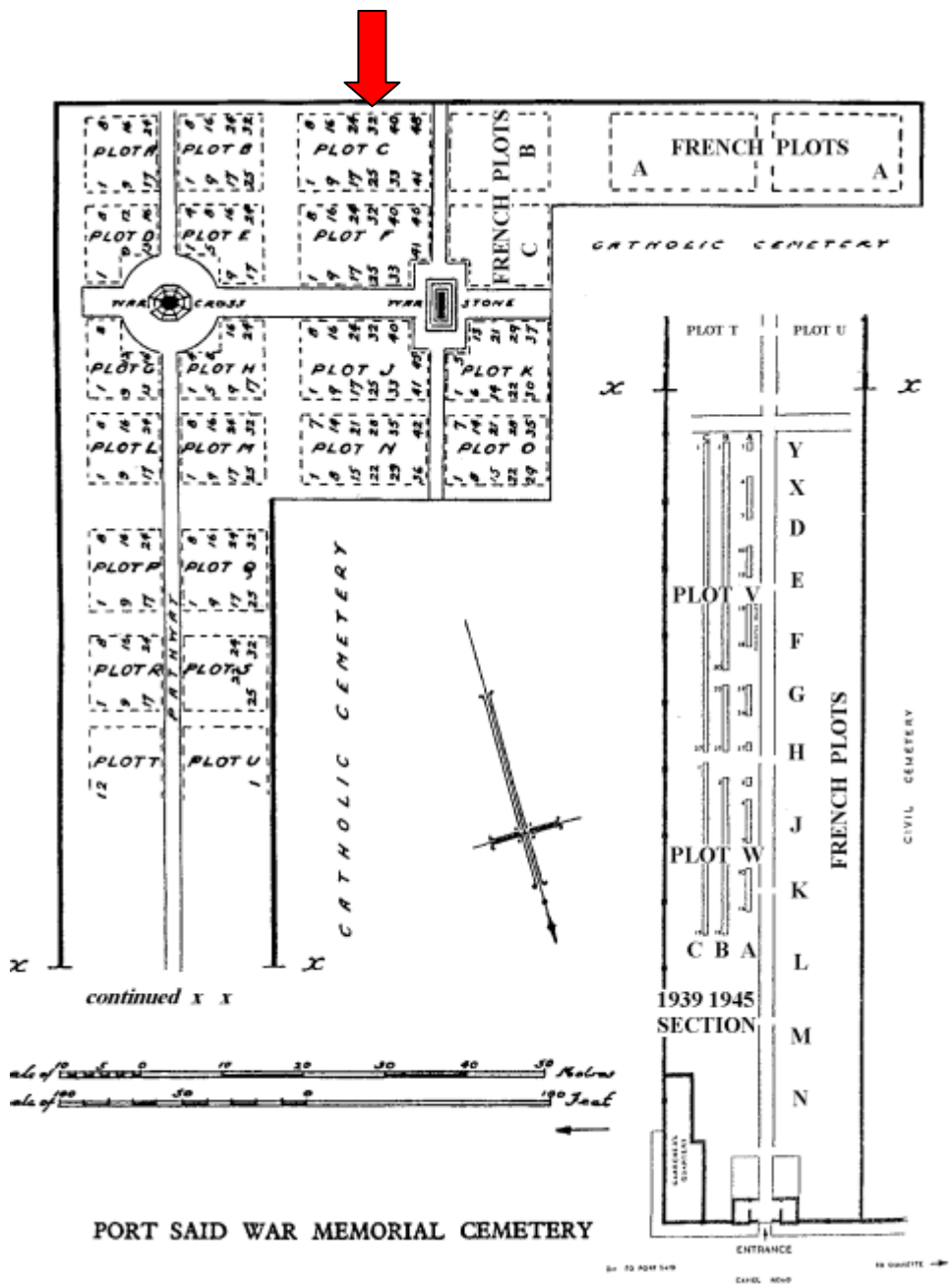
The cemetery now contains 544 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 111 from the Second World War. There are also 430 war graves of other nationalities and 7 non war burials.



Port Said War Memorial Cemetery (Photos & information from CWGC)



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



PORT SAID WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY