

Studley Local Historian December 2019

The Centenary of the Studley War Memorial 2020

And VE day 75

By Arthur Cooke

I am grateful to those readers who responded to my request for information on the 10 names on the WW2 plaque on the memorial and I have been able to do 4 cameos complete with photographs.

I have also written one cameo for A/B John Collis **Bell**, whose parents were Fred and Fanny Bell of New Road. And another of Pte Thomas Alfred James **Lane** (known as Jimmy Lane) whose parents lived in Haydonway, also having a daughter Grace Mills, who lived in Allendale Crescent, who had a daughter the late Cynthia, and also a son. Are there family members who could send a photograph of either John Bell or Jimmy Lane?

And I need to know if James A **Stiles**, who died 24th November 1941, aged 22, and who is buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery, was the son of Harry and Nellie Stiles, Alcester Road. If that is correct could they also supply information about him, and perhaps a photograph?

Also if Pte Norman Charles **Smith** was the son of Harry and Mildred Smith of Station Road, Studley? Could they also supply information about him, and perhaps a photograph?

Another name is Pte Bernard Francis **Willis**, died on 23rd December 1944 and who is buried at St Mary's Churchyard. Could he be the son of Frank and Ethel Willis of Redditch Road? Or was he related to the Willis family who lived in a white cottage in the Slough below Crabbs Cross.

The last name still eludes me, it is Sgt D **Broad**. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission for WW2 does not record a D Broad. That initial may not be of his registered name, but I cannot find any other Broad, sergeant or otherwise, with any links to Studley and district. Nor are there anyone of that surname recorded in the Studley 1939 census, and the name cannot easily be misspelt as Styles for Stiles was on the memorial. He may have been an Australian (as happened with one entry for WW1) with Studley connections but I have not been able to find out more.

If any reader, including non-relatives, can give information on any of these it would be helpful.

The principal reason I published my earlier (non-profit making) book on the WW1 casualties was to give these brave people, a personality, a Christian name, a mother and a family and for this to be a permanent record. And in 2018 I was rewarded by the British Legion and fund contributors by having the "missing names" permanently inscribed on the memorial. And I now want to do the same for WW2 casualties. Replies to acooke001@btinternet.com or if

you prefer to Karen Cording. Editor, Studley Historian, 29 Hillmorton Close, Church Hill North, Redditch B98 9LX.