



WAR RECORD  
1914 - 1918



MORRELL BINDER LONDON

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This book is a record of those men  
connected with East London College who  
were killed or who died on military service  
during the years 1914 - 1919.

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*The records which are incorporated  
in this book, were compiled from  
Authentic sources during the years  
following the War, completed in  
the year 1929 and placed beside  
the War Memorial.*

# Robert Ashton

Second Lieutenant, Royal Marines.  
of 74, Bishops Road, North Brixton.

Killed in action whilst serving in  
Palestine. He was a pupil of East London  
College Day School from 1897 to 1898, during  
which period he held a Drapers' Company  
Scholarship.

He was awarded the D.C.M.

# Samuel Bacon

Gunner, R.G.A.  
of East London.

Killed by a shell at Mesnil Ridge, near Albert, July 29<sup>th</sup> 1916, and is buried in the Communal Cemetery at Mesnil Martinsart.

He was educated at St Peter's Church School (London Docks) where his schoolboy activities in Swimming, Football and High-jumping achieved for him some reputation. He entered College as an evening Student in 1913, on the Arts side, while he worked during the day as a Librarian. Early in 1915 he was appointed First Assistant Librarian in Stepney Borough Libraries.

In 1915 he was awarded the Certificate of the Royal Humane Society for saving a boy from drowning in the Thames.

He enlisted in October 1915 in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

At Easter 1916, he was married to Miss Alice Smart, B.Sc. who had taken an Honours Degree in Botany at College in 1912.

Camille Bernard Colin Bava  
Second Lieutenant Northumberland Fusiliers.  
of 92 Craven Park Road, Harlesden, N.W.

Entered College in 1908 and was for three  
years a student in the Engineering  
Department.

Clarence Bird

Lieutenant, R.A.F.

of "Sydney," Grove Hill, South Woodford, Essex.

Educated at East London College Day School where he held a Drapers' Company Scholarship from 1902 to 1905.

# Edward William Britten

Captain, Middlesex Regt 10<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup>  
of 70 Birkbeck Road, Tottenham.

Killed on August 10<sup>th</sup> 1915 at Gallipoli, where he is buried.

He was educated at Tottenham Grammar School; entered College as an Arts Student in 1912, and passed his Intermediate B.A. in 1913.

He joined the Army in 1914 as Second Lieutenant and was promoted to Lieutenant and Captain in a few months.

He was killed while giving water to a wounded comrade and lies buried on the side of a hill facing the Aegean Sea.

An extract from a letter written by his Colonel reads:- "He fell with the advance last Tuesday, rendering aid to another officer who was at the time wounded, and ultimately killed. "He died a noble death as they were under heavy fire and to remain in one position for a moment meant certain death."

Arthur Scott Buckton  
Captain, R.G.A.  
of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Killed at the Battle of Arras, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
1917. Buried in Arras Cemetery.

He entered East London College Day School  
in the Engineering Department in 1908, won a  
Whitworth Exhibition in 1910 and took his B.Sc.  
(Engineering) with First Class Honours in 1912.

He obtained his first post as Junior Assistant  
in the Engineering Department of the Port of  
London Authority, became an Associate Member  
of the Institute of Civil Engineers and a graduate  
of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Later  
he went to Canada where he had commenced  
to qualify for the Dominion Land Surveyors'  
Diploma, when news of the outbreak of war  
reached him, was on tour with a Surveying party.

Returning at once to England he obtained  
a Commission in the R.G.A. in January 1915.  
Whilst serving in France he heard that he had been  
successful in obtaining the Surveyors' Diploma.

He served in Egypt and in France, where  
he obtained his Captaincy in January 1917. A  
fortnight before his death he received the  
congratulations of his General. His Commanding  
Officer wrote,

"Captain Buckton had endeared himself  
to us all by his charming and bright disposition.  
His thoroughness was an example to every Officer,  
"N.C.O. and man in the Battery. The Colonel  
had already sent his name forward with a  
view to his obtaining Command of a Battery."

# Walter William Busby

Captain, M.C., 13<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment.  
of 14 Sherrard Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

Killed in action on November 13<sup>th</sup> 1916 at Beaumont Hamel, and is buried in Terra Road Cemetery near that town.

He was a pupil at Shaftesbury Road Council School, East Ham, and later at Sandringham Road Council School, East Ham. Continuing his education at the Carpenters' Company School Stratford, he obtained a Carpenters' Company Scholarship to East London College Technical School, which he entered as a Science Student in 1908. He passed his Intermediate B.Sc. at College, where he remained until 1912, and then obtained a post as Assistant Analytical Chemist.

He was the Scoutmaster of the 2<sup>nd</sup> West Ham Troop of Boy Scouts and District Scoutmaster for West Ham.

On the outbreak of war he joined the 13<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment and was promoted from Second to First Lieutenant, and later to Captain in the same regiment.

He was awarded the Military Cross in France.

# Bertram Howard Buttle

Second Lieutenant Royal Engineers  
of 11 Kingsley Road, Forest Gate, E. 7.

Died of wounds, September 1917 in France.

He was educated at West Ham Municipal College 1902-5, gaining a Senior Scholarship with which he entered College on the Science side in 1905. He graduated with Honours in Chemistry in 1907.

On leaving College he was appointed Science Master at Archbishop Holgate's School, York, and from there went to Finsbury Technical Institute as a Demonstrator. In January 1910 he was elected a fellow of the Chemical Society.

Almost immediately after the outbreak of war he joined the University and Public Schools section of the Royal Fusiliers and was drafted for service in France with the Gas Section of the Royal Engineers, July 1915. After service with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in the winter of 1915-1916 he returned to England, obtained his Commission in May, and went to France where he served until his death in the autumn of 1917.

His Captain wrote of him, "His courage and "never failing good spirits won him the love and "esteem of all Officers and men with whom he "came into contact."

His Major wrote, "I was very much attached "to him. He had been with me for several weeks and "had always shown the greatest keenness and interest "in his work. I could always be certain that what "ever I gave him to do would be well and thoroughly "done."

Aubrey Edward Waller Butler  
Second Lieut. 5<sup>th</sup> Service Batta. Princess Charlotte of Wales,  
Royal Berks.  
of Belvedere, Kent.

Reported Missing, and later, "killed in action  
or died of wounds."

He was educated at the Erith County Secondary  
School, 1905-1908, and was a pupil with Messrs  
Fraser and Chalmers Ltd, 1908-1911. He entered  
College in 1911 and studied in the Engineering  
department until 1914, during which time he  
passed his Intermediate B.Sc. Engineering. He  
was a Cadet in the University of London Contingent  
of the Q.T.C., and a member of the Institute of  
Electrical Engineers.

He went to France attached to the 35<sup>th</sup>  
Infantry Brigade of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division, and  
was reported missing after the assault on the  
German trenches near Crillers la Boisselle on  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1916. No further news was received.  
His death was reported officially in July 1917.

# William Audsley Butler

Second Lieut. Staffs Regt. attached to Royal Warwicks.  
of "The Elms" Cranwick Road, Stamford Hill, N.

Killed by a shell while leading his Company  
out of the trenches at Le Sars, November 16<sup>th</sup> 1916.

He was educated at Dundee High School  
and Huddersfield College School; entered  
College in 1913 as an Engineering Student, and  
continued there until 1915, during which time  
he was a member of the O.T.C.

In July 1915 he obtained a Commission, and  
in June 1916 was sent to France, proceeding  
directly to the trenches. He was appointed  
Bombing Officer and later Intelligence Officer,  
and shortly before his death was given charge  
of a Company.

His Captain wrote of him, "I had sent  
in his name to the Commanding Officer with  
a strong recommendation that he should receive  
a decoration, for bravery in action on July 17<sup>th</sup>  
and 18<sup>th</sup>, when he and I and five men were all  
that were left of the Company."

# John Stewart Calder

Captain M.C. & Bar, 5<sup>th</sup> City of London Regiment.  
of "Wyvis" 21 Seagry Road, Wanstead.

Wounded and missing, March 28<sup>th</sup> 1918.

He was educated at the Leytonstone County High School, and studied at College from 1910-13, obtaining his Intermediate B.Sc. during this period.

While at Training College he served in a Territorial Battalion, and was consequently one of the few recruits selected on the outbreak of war, to make up the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of his regiment to full strength for service overseas. Early in November 1914 he was in France, and by the 27<sup>th</sup> of that month had already been in the trenches. By December 14<sup>th</sup> he was Acting Lance-Corporal, and was soon promoted to Corporal, and to Sergeant. Ultimately he received the especial honour of a Commission in his own regiment. The full rank of Lieutenant and then of Captain soon followed.

He gained his M.C. in the Battle of Cambrai. The official record of the Award concludes, "It was owing to his prompt action that two bombing attacks were easily repulsed. During the whole operation his courage and cheerfulness were the means of inspiring all ranks."

In a bombing raid on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1918, he gained a Bar to his Military Cross. The "Gazette" recorded his "cool and methodical" conduct on this occasion.

Less than a week later came the great German Attack. Captain Calder, in command of the "A" Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> London Rifle Brigade, was holding an advanced post which was heavily shelled and finally overwhelmed by the attacking enemy. The whole Battalion had to retire, and of the fate of Captain Calder nothing is definitely known.

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Frederick Caplan  
Private, Royal Engineers.  
of Hanbury Street, E.1.

Killed in action during March 1918.

He was educated at the Central Foundation School, Whitechapel, where he shewed great keenness in games, playing in the Schools 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football and Cricket Teams.

He entered College in 1914; and joined the Army before taking his Final Examination in Science.

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# Frederick William Caton

11<sup>th</sup> South Staffordshire Regiment.

Killed in action, June 28<sup>th</sup> 1916, and is buried at Aix-Noulette, near Loos.

He was educated at Brighton Grammar School 1895-1903, and proceeded thence to Merton College, Oxford, where he accepted a Post Mastership, and in 1904, won an Exhibition by the Grocer's Company. In 1906 he took Final Honours in Natural Science, with a Second Class in Chemistry.

His interests were varied. A keen tennis and cricket player, he also was awarded his colours as goalkeeper for his College in Association Football. At the Oxford Settlement he did much good work.

From Oxford he went to the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, and two years later came to East London College as Demonstrator in Chemistry. A post as Senior Science Master in Taunton School followed, and in 1912 he took his M.A. at Oxford. He was then appointed County Chemistry Master, Staffordshire County Council.

In April 1915 he joined the Inns of Court Training Corps, was Gazetted to the 11<sup>th</sup> South Staffordshire Regiment in July, and in March 1916 was transferred to the Special Brigade, R.E. with whom he shortly afterwards proceeded to France.

H. L. Clark  
Sergeant, H.A.C.

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James Hyatt Clark  
Second Lieutenant, M.M. & Bar, R.A.F.  
of 24 Clarendon Road, Leytonstone.

Died at the Military Hospital, South Tidworth,  
on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1918. Buried in Tidworth Military  
Cemetery.

He was educated at Parmiter's School, at East London College Technical School (1900-1903), West Ham Technical College (1903-1905) and in 1905 returned to East London College as an Assistant to Professor Morris in the Electrical Engineering Laboratory, where he stayed for two years.

On the outbreak of War he joined the Royal Engineers as a Private and was soon promoted to Sergeant. During his service in France he was awarded the Military Medal and later a Bar to this Medal.

The official statement concerning the first Award reads, - "For Gallantry and Devotion to Duty in the attack on Ovillers, July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1916. When our front and communication trenches were being very heavily shelled by the enemy, this N.C.O. remained for four hours continuously repairing the telephone lines from the Brigade to Battalion Report Centres. The line of which he was in charge, was being constantly cut by shell fire, sometimes in two or three places at a time, and it was entirely owing to his continuous exertions in repairing and patrolling that the line to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion R.W. Kent Regt was kept through....."

The Bar was awarded for a similar feat at Monchy le Preux on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1917.

In April 1918 he returned to England and became a Second Lieutenant in the R.A.F.

# Reginald Charles Collier

Lieutenant, R.G.A.  
of Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Died in Hospital at Le Havre, November 17<sup>th</sup> 1918, from heart strain, caused by gun-firing, followed by double pneumonia. Buried in the Cemetery of St. Maire Le Havre.

He was educated at Uxbridge County School where he held a County Scholarship, was Senior Prefect of the School, and a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football and Cricket Teams.

Having passed his Intermediate B.Sc. at School he entered College in 1911 and graduated in 1913 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours degree in Chemistry.

After taking his degree he taught for a short time at the Latimer Grammar School, Hammersmith.

In 1915, he joined the ranks of the R.A.M.C., was rapidly promoted to Corporal and sent to Egypt, thence to Salonica. Coming home at the beginning of 1918 he joined the University of London O.T.C., was gazetted a Second Lieutenant in the R.G.A. and went to France in May 1918.

Edgar P. Connel

Private. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.  
of 3, Clephane Villas, Pulteney Road, South Woodford.

He was a pupil in East London College day school, where he held a Drapers' Company Scholarship.

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Frederick Cowling  
Private 17<sup>th</sup> County of London Rifles.

Killed in the Somme fighting, on  
September 15<sup>th</sup> 1916.

He joined the College as Laboratory boy  
in 1911 under Professor Morris, and later became  
Assistant Electrical Instrument Maker.

He joined up in September 1914, at the age  
of nineteen, and saw service at Neuve Chapelle,  
Grenay, Armentieres, Bethune and Loos. From  
December 1915 to September 1916 he was in  
the Machine Gun Corps.