

# Not Just a Name

Erratum and Addendum May 2019

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*As a result of the publication of this book, information has been received advising the correct identity of **Albert Jordan**.*

*Private Albert Jordan, 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment as described in the book and the son of John Jordan, was thought to be correct at the time. It has now been discovered that he has no connections with Mersea Island although we now remember him in this book as one who sacrificed his life for his country. Details of the correct individual are as follows:*

SURNAME: Jordan  
CHRISTIAN NAMES: Albert Ernest  
AGE: 18  
RECRUITMENT OFFICE: Not known  
SERVICE NO: Not known RANK: Ordinary Seaman  
SERVICE/REGIMENT: Mercantile Marine Reserve  
DECORATIONS EARNED: Not known  
DATE KILLED/DIED: 22nd October 1918 LOCATION: Scotland  
LOCATION OF GRAVE: Dunfermline Parish Cemetery, Fifeshire.

## BACKGROUND AND SERVICE HISTORY:

Albert Ernest Jordan was born In 1900, the son of William John and Mary Ann Jordan. During the war his parents were living at the Coast Guard Station, West Mersea as his father was the Chief Coastguard. The family home was at No, 27 South Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Nothing is known of Albert's early life. At the age of eighteen, he enlisted in the Mercantile Marine Reserve and served as an Ordinary Seaman on HMS *Crescent*, a Royal Naval depot ship in Scotland, HMS *Crescent* was originally a First Class protected cruiser built by Portsmouth Dockyard and launched on 30th March 1892, being completed on 22nd February 1894. From November 1915 onwards after disarming, she was employed as a submarine depot ship at Invergordon and as a general Depot ship for the Firth of Forth in 1919, until she was sold for breaking up on 22nd September 1921.

*Albert Jordan continued.*

In the Autumn of 1918 Albert is thought to have become a victim of the influenza epidemic and died on 22nd October, 1918. He is buried in Dunfermline Parish Cemetery, Fifeshire in a private plot purchased by his father. He is commemorated on the West Mersea War Memorial as his parents were then still on the Island. Later they returned to their home town of Bishop's Stortford, but his name does not appear on that town's War Memorial.

Sources

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission*

*Mr Lee Bassett*

*Register of Electors 1918, West Mersea.*



*The grave of Ordinary Seaman Albert Ernest Jordan in Dunfermline Parish Cemetery.*

## Harry Victor Gardner

Following publication of Not Just a Name, the Gardner family sent a photograph and article to Mersea Museum. It is reproduced below.



Victor was born on 17 August 1894. He attended Varndean School in Brighton where he is also listed on the roll of honour. The Gardners lived in West Mersea between 1907 and 1917 when they moved to St Leonards on Sea and John Henry took ownership of the Pier.

The 1911 census shows Victor living in West Mersea with mother and siblings Olive, Alfred and Iris and working as an assistant gardener. His father was staying in a hotel in London on the night of the census. His sister, Isabella (known by her middle name, May) was living in St Peter's Road with her husband, Arthur Hempstead and her daughter, Joy.

When he signed up, Victor was lodging in Glan Rhewyn, Cwmllynfell, South Wales, where he was working for his father at Gardner's Anthracite Colliery in Cwmtwrch. After the war in St Leonards, a 60h.p. Daimler ambulance, which was named the 'Victor Gardner', was handed over to the Red Cross Society. A bed in his memory was established in the Buchanan Hospital. The hospital was replaced by the Conquest Hospital but there still exists a Gardner Ward.

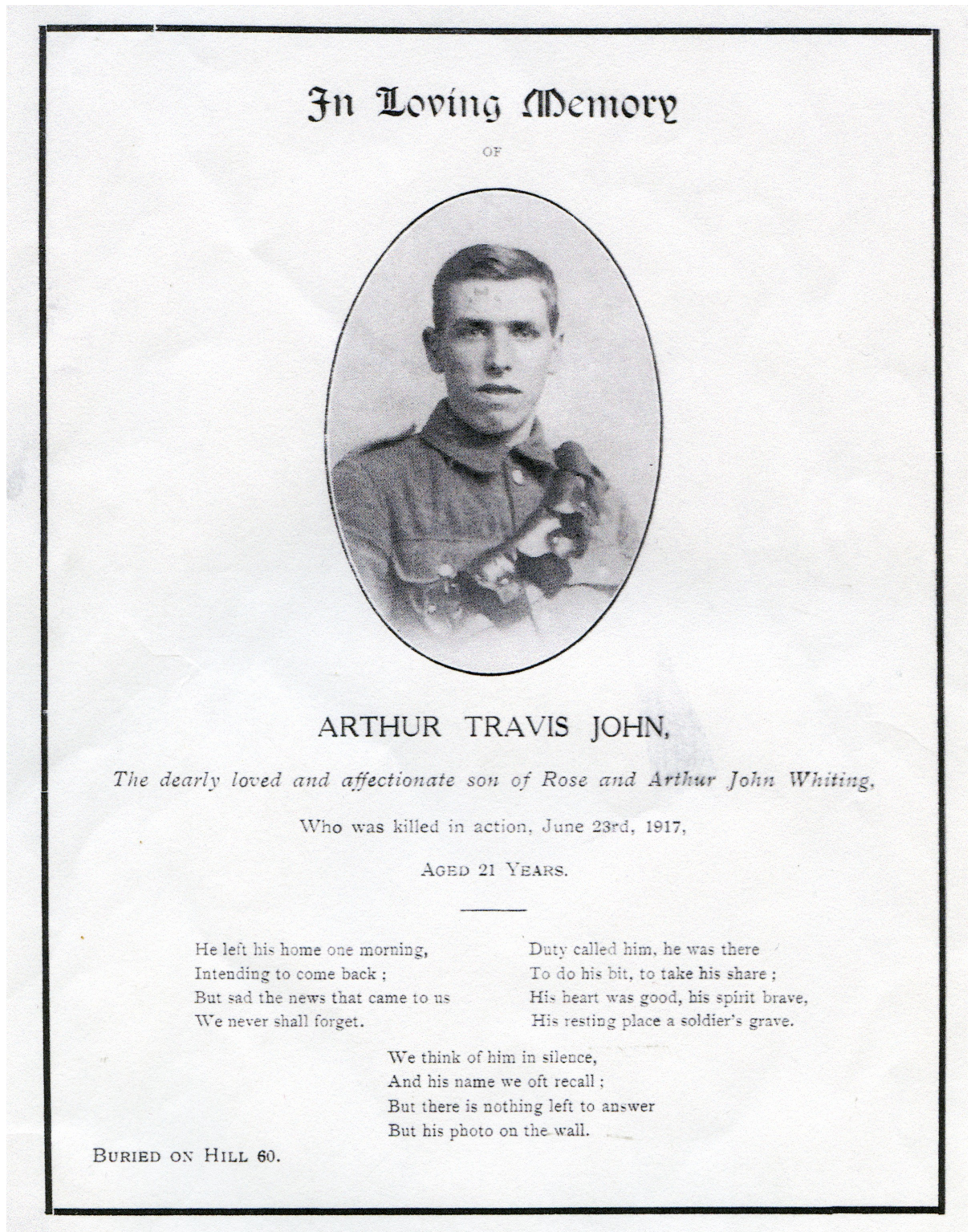
The following article, written by Victor's father, appeared in the Sussex Daily News on March 30th 1917

Many Brighton and Hove residents will regret to hear that Private Harry Victor Gardner, son of Mr J.H. Gardner, managing director of the Colliery Investment Trust (Limited), London and Swansea, has been killed in action. Born at Hove in 1894, he joined the Welsh Regiment in March 1915, and went to France in May, 1916, attached to the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. In July he obtained the Military Medal, being the first in his regiment to do so. In a letter of sympathy to the young soldier's father, the Captain commanding his company states that he was wounded in both arms and legs by a German grenade which fell in the trench. He was attended to at once, and it was hoped his life would have been saved, but he died from collapse and loss of blood while being removed from the trench the same evening. The writer adds: "His loss is mourned by all of us; we were very proud of him in the Company...He was always so bright and cheerful and a fine soldier. I think I can honestly say that I don't think that he realized any suffering. He was quite conscious at first, but later lost consciousness. You may well be proud of him."



## Arthur Travis John Whiting

Arthur T.J. Whiting is not included in most Mersea lists, perhaps because he and his family were living in Colchester by the time the war broke out. He was born in West Mersea, the son of Arthur John Whiting and Rose Whiting née Cook..





## Harris William Hoy

Killed 17 February 1917



The photograph above is dated 24 September 1916 and shows Harris William Hoy on the left and George Hoy on the right.

George was an elder brother of William and the photograph was on William's last leave at home. He was killed on the Somme 17 February 1917.



Written on the back of the photograph on the left is "From Loving Brother Willie to Lucy"

Lucy was one of William's younger sisters.



The photo on the left is on page 62 of Not Just a Name. Another copy of this postcard has come to light and it is embossed lower right Wekeycan & Co. Cairo. On the back is written "Ripper Hoy" and "Charlie Hoy". So this photograph is Charlie Hoy who was a brother of Harris William Hoy. Charlie Hoy was in 161 Coy Machine Gun Corps, which was in Palestine March 1918 - hence the photograph taken in Cairo, Egypt.