

#### 44) Private Henry **ARMSTRONG** (St Nicolas's Wasing)

At St Nicholas's Church Wasing, there is a Pte Henry Armstrong listed on both the Roll of Honour of those served and indeed the War Memorial of the Fallen. No further details are given.

A search of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database revealed six soldiers being this name as having been killed in the Great War. Similarly this database revealed eight 'H. Armstong's. None of those with given addresses could be linked with the village of Wasing/Aldermaston or nearby areas. Of the six 'H.Armstrong's with no associated next of kin addresses, none could be linked to 'local regiments'.

A similar search was undertaken on the 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' database. Again none of the 'birthplace', 'enlisted' or 'residence' could be linked with Wasing/Aldermaston or local area.

Searches of both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses for the Wasing/Aldermaston did not reveal the presence of an Armstrong family in the area.

Extending the search to the Roll of Honour for Brimpton, did reveal a William Armstrong who died of wounds with the Royal Berkshire Regiment. His next of kin was listed as having come from Lincolnshire. Further searches revealed no further information.

One explanation is that 'Henry' may have been the name he was known by, but might not have been his first name. The same is the case for 'Roland Abbot', this name being found in records, He did not use his first name Francis. The Baughurst war memorial does contain a Pte Francis R.Abbott – the name his family gave him. Using this name in searches would also likely reveal a blank.

It may never be known who Henry Abbott was, he is therefore an 'unknown warrior' and although each of the 43 other names on the Aldermaston Centenary Plaque have annual dates on which they can be remembered, Henry Armstrong has no such unique date.

Thus even on dates on which no one was killed, it is possible to remember Henry Armstrong - the 'unknown warrior'.