

# The aftermath

On 17 November 1918, Beatrice Webb (born & brought up in Standish House) wrote: "**Every day one meets saddened women, with haggard faces and lethargic movements, and one dare not ask after husband or son.**"

Like other communities throughout the country, there was much grief and many broken men in Stonehouse. Some, like Squadron Sergeant Major Gardner, 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars, had to retire due to being no longer fit for military service:

- In August 1914 he was awarded the French Medaille Militaire for gallantry. He had also been wounded.
- He was also "mentioned in despatches" and awarded the Good Conduct and Long Service Medals.
- In 1919, after 23 years service, he was a chronic rheumatic, "no longer physically fit for war service", and unemployed.



Sergeant Major Gardner with brothers Sergeant Frederick William and Driver Joseph Percy

## War Graves

- Grave marking the deaths of two brothers Wingfield, one in the Royal Air Force, the other in the Machine Gun Corps.
- There were other such families—including the Bakers of the Spa Inn and the Dixon brothers of Downton House, Stanley Downton.
- One of these brothers, Captain Eric Dixon, who died when his aircraft crashed in England in August 1917, had landed his aircraft on the meadow by the River Frome the previous summer. Hundreds of local people turned out to see his landing and take off.



## Memorials

- August 1919: dedication of the Memorial on the Village Green.
- December 1919: Mr JCC Kimmins offered to give land at Laburnum Walk for a recreation ground to provide a Peace Memorial.
- July 1921: dedication of Wycliffe College's Chapel clock tower and spire as a Memorial to former pupils who had lost their lives.

