

# Henry Pollard and the German prisoners-of-war

Upex, informed the court that whilst working with the prisoners on a local farm, that they had collected 1s. 10½d. which had been given to him in order to buy five loaves from the defendant. William Howell admitted supplying the bread, but 'was not aware that it was a wrong thing to do'. Henry George Pollard, who was the Tansor baker, gave evidence to the court that he was 'coming with his cart between Glaphorn and Oundle, [and] the defendant called out "Have you a loaf?". He asked who it was for, and he said "Him inside". He saw a German prisoner in the field on a manure heap.' Pollard refused to supply the bread, and informed the police. The court heard that Henry Pollard had 'had trouble' with a German prisoner, who 'went into his shop, put down the money, picked up a loaf and was walking away when Mr Pollard took it from him'. William Howell was fined 15s. for the misdemeanour. It is uncertain which farms the Germans were working on, but quite clear that they were interacting with the local community. Three of Henry Pollard's sons went to war – George, Frederick and Charles, and perhaps this explains his antagonism toward the German prisoners.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> 1918, the Northampton Daily Echo reported on a court case heard at the Oundle Sessions earlier that week. William James Howell, a Warmington grocer, was summoned for supplying five loaves of bread to German prisoners-of-war held locally, on 27<sup>th</sup> April that year. One of the witnesses, a local man, John

Daniel Butler lived at Tansor Wold. Originally signing up with the Northamptonshire Regiment, he was transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Essex Regiment in July 1917 and served in Flanders and France. In early 1918, the battalion was based at Broembeek

camp near Ypres. During this period, the war diary records the general work undertaken by the men, which mostly seems to have consisted of manual labour. On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1918, Daniel Butler was awarded a seven-day Field Punishment No. 2, which meant that he was placed in fetters and handcuffs, for the duration. In February 1918, the men were moved to Bethancourt near Reims in France, where they relieved the Somerset

Light Infantry in the battle zone. During March and April, the battalion was involved in front line action in the Arras – St-Quentin-La-Fère sector of the Somme. The German army had captured Hangard, and the battalion was ordered to counter-attack alongside French troops. The Battle of Hangard Wood formed part of the larger Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, during which the Red Baron was shot down. Despite being shot in the left leg in October 1918, Daniel Butler survived the war, and returned to live in Farcet Fen, just outside Peterborough.

## Daniel Butler in Flanders

23.3.18

**"Attacked by overwhelming numbers of enemy. Battalion fought hard alone."**



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

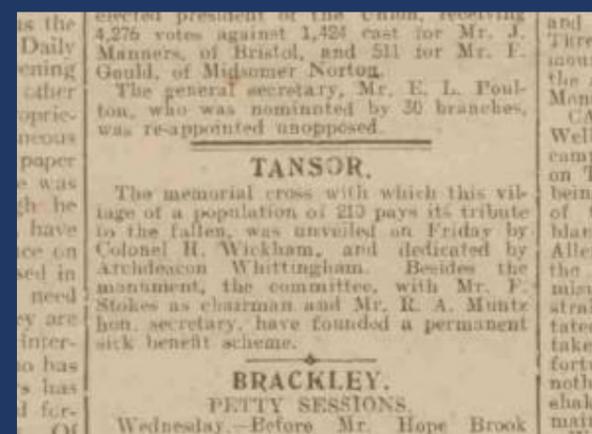
Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

Pte. William Ernest Rowlett  
Middlesex Regiment

## Tansor after the war

Although many more survived the war, the Electoral Register for Tansor in the spring of 1920 shows that just thirteen men had returned to live in the parish. Sidney Calver had left Tansor Court to live with his wife in Norfolk; Albert Rowlett was in Yorkshire, where he had re-married; and Frank Baldwin had returned to Winnipeg. In the village, a committee was founded to raise funds for a war memorial, which was unveiled in August 1922. In addition to the memorial, the committee founded a permanent sick benefit scheme. Several of the men are either buried or commemorated in Tansor churchyard.

Most of the troops were demobilized in 1919.



Northampton Mercury, 18<sup>th</sup> August 1922