

**In Memory of
Driver PERCY JOHN WHITING
T/293330, Horse Transport and Supply,
Royal Army Service Corps
Born and resided in Faringdon who died, age 27
on 3 December 1918
Son of James and Ellen Whiting,
of 7, Block Green, Faringdon, Berks.
Remembered with honour
Faringdon and Faringdon United Church War Memorials
and STE. MARIE CEMETERY, LE HAVRE**



Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

During the First World War, Le Havre was one of the ports at which the British Expeditionary Force disembarked in August 1914. Except for a short interval during the German advance in 1914 it remained No 1 Base throughout the war and by the end of May 1917, it contained three general and two stationary hospitals, and four convalescent depots.

The first Commonwealth burials took place in Division 14 of Ste Marie Cemetery in mid-August 1914. Burials in Divisions 19, 3, 62 and 64 followed successively. A memorial in Plot 62 marks the graves of 24 casualties from the hospital ship 'Salta' and her patrol boat, sunk by a mine on 10 April 1917. The memorial also commemorates by name the soldiers, nurses and merchant seamen lost from the 'Salta' whose bodies were not recovered, and those lost in the sinking of the hospital ship 'Galeka' (mined on 28 October 1916) and the

transport ship 'Normandy' (torpedoed on 25 January 1918), whose graves are not known.

There are now 1,690 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery, 8 of which are unidentified. During the Second World War, Le Havre was one of the evacuation ports for the British Expeditionary force in 1940 and towards the end of the war it was used as a supply and reinforcement base.

There are now 364 burials of the Second World War here (59 of them unidentified) in Divisions 64 and 67 of the cemetery. The Commonwealth plots in the cemetery were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

Percy was the youngest son of James and Ellen Whiting, born in 1892. The Whitings were a big family living at 7 Block Green. In 1911 Percy was a coal haulier but by 1916, when he enlisted in the Royal Berks Regiment aged 24, he was a gardener. (Dave Headey)