Holt - Cricket match saluted the bravery of a lost generation

The First World War left a gaping hole in the life of Gresham's independent school, near Holt.

One hundred former pupils at the school lost their lives in the conflict, many of them still teenagers.

The young men had been drilled by the school's officers training corps to prepare them to serve as junior officers - the men who were expected to lead their soldiers "over the top" and into action.

A poignant annual cricket match held this summer was used to salute the school's ex-student soldiers. The game recreated a School v Old Boys fixture in 1914.

Months after that match, many players had moved from the cricket field to the battle field, and 11 of the 24 were killed in action during the long years of war that followed.

Among those to die were: David Jacques (19) - killed in December 1916 by a sniper's bullet in northern France; John Nicholson (20) - a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery who died from his wounds in October 1918; and George Howson died a year after the war ended, with many believing it was from a broken heart having lost so many promising young lives. As the school's pupils tended not to be from the town, they appear not to be commemorated on its roll of honour.

Herbert Harvey, Walter Harvey, William Harvey.

The observer in the Royal Flying Corps. The school chapel was already being built when the war broke out. When it ended, the building was dedicated to the students who never came home - their names immortalised on a board of honour and seats. Headmaster at the time was Clement (Neill) Newsum (20) - killed by shellfire near Ypres in September 1917 a week before his 21st birthday; Adrian Graves (21) - died under heavy fire commanding machine gunners in March 1918; Douglas Wells (21) killed in 1918 while serving as an

Horstead

Walter E Self, Christopher Thistle.

Horsford


Hoveton


Honning

Alfred Cott, Charles Dack, John Fox, John Ratcliff, Thomas Clarke, and their brave companions.

Hunworth