

James G Ruddock -Broyd

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To: OFs and FRIENDS

L CPL W H HEWITT: LAYING OF VC CENTENARY PAVING STONE

I am permitted to send you the attached or enclosed invitation to attend the unveiling of the Government's stone and plaque to commemorate the award of the Victoria Cross to William Henry Hewitt (1894-1900) for his Action in France on 20 September 1917. The project has been master-minded by Jennifer Jones of Copdock who has been in regular contact with Norman Porter, myself and Hewitt's old school, Framlingham College. Please note there is a reverse section of the invitation.

The ceremony will take place on Sunday 17 September 2017 in the Centre of the Village at Copdock, south of Ipswich in Suffolk with the parties gathering at 1.30pm for a ceremony starting sharp at 2pm. Afterwards there will be tea and cakes in the Brook Inn and there will be documents and artefacts on display.

Framlingham College will be represented and an Honour Guard is being provided by the College CCF. The event will be the culmination of three years research and planning by Jennifer and interested locals and they were pleased to hear recently that a grant for the event has been awarded by Celebrate England. It is expected a dozen or so members of the Hewitt family will be attending from the UK and abroad.

The "Three Heroes" Tour in April 2014 visited the site of the 3rd Battle of Ypres near the Menin Road where Cpl Hewitt (later Major), serving in a South African battalion and being severely wounded, threw a grenade through an open slot in a pillbox which was part of the enemy garrison and "caused the occupants to dislodge and they were speedily dealt with."

This centenary is the first of the three VC awards to Old Framlinghamians in the period 1917 to 1919. I am sending this to a number of OFs and friends and those non-OFs who were on the Three Heroes Tour. If you know anyone interested who has not received an invitation please let me know quickly.

Will you please RSVP as per the invitation by 1 September 2017. I received acceptances a while ago from Chris Essex and Norman Porter.

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