

ONE-MAN MEMORIAL:

Houghton St. Giles, in the parish of Bakenham, has only a few dozen inhabitants - but this little Norfolk village lives its daily life in the firm conviction that a few dozen people are just as important as a few thousand; that "What kind of people?" is a more important question than "How Many?".

And, of course, they are right. Ask the curate, Father Peter Harbottle - or Mrs. Green - or any of the people who live and work in Houghton St. Giles. They have all known each other all their lives - which is more than can be said of town-dwellers with their complicated ways. A Houghton cottage is a complete village history in itself; and one face you will see in several parlours is that of Bert Jarvis, Houghton's only casualty in World War Two. He was born here - and died in a Japanese prison ship. But one dead man matters as much as a thousand, to those who knew him; So Houghton decides on a war memorial.

Bert Jarvis's brother and uncle are present as Father Hand, Chairman of the Parish Council, dedicates the Memorial.

Bert Jarvis's aunt is here, too - and from the nearby town of Fakenham comes his best friend, Joe Budden, to lay a wreath. Joe was in Bert's battalion and also a prisoner of war. A war memorial to one man; but when the community is small, one life is just as great a sacrifice as bigger places have made.