

# Brenchley



The picturesque village of Brenchley is located off the A21 main road, on the B2162 and is located between the villages of Matfield and Horsmonden. Brief mention should be made of the fact that as part of the 1934 Kent Review Order, part of the parish of Brenchley went to the adjoining parish of Horsmonden, and part of Horsmonden went to Brenchley. To add to the complications whilst carrying out the researches to commemorate the Brenchley victims of war, it was noted that the hamlet of Petteridge also falls within Brenchley, and that Matfield the 'Sister Village' of Brenchley was once a hamlet of Brenchley, all of which makes for difficulty when attempting to differentiate who should be added as a 'Lost Man' on the brief commemorations below. Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial is located at the junction of the High Street and Holly Bank. The memorial was unveiled and dedicated at a service on Thursday 20 May 1920, which was conducted by the Vicar of All Saints parish church, Brenchley; the Reverend Percy Scott Whelan who had been the Vicar from 1909. All Saints parish church contains a Great War and Second World War Roll of Honour, in addition to which is a memorial plaque in memory of the 'Battle of Britain' casualties, which is located on the churchyard wall adjacent to the Lych Gate. Opened in 1922, is the Brenchley Memorial Hall which was erected as a memorial to the local casualties of the Great War. The combination of the civic war memorial, Rolls of Honour in the parish church, Battle of Britain memorial plaque, and the Brenchley Memorial Hall, are all obvious visible indications of the concern of former Brenchley parishioners that their victims of war should be remembered and honoured. It has recently become clear that current day parishioners also share the same concerns as their predecessors, as since the time that the accompanying Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial photographs were taken for inclusion here on this website, we had been informed by one of the regular contributors to this website, that it has now been thoroughly professionally cleaned by Burlite, The Stone Shop, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent. Clearly we are not on the internet to advertise companies or products etcetera, but when we were informed which company had carried out the work, and being aware of the excellent standard of the work that is always carried out by Gordon Newton, and his team at The Stone Shop, doubtless it has now been restored to pristine condition. In May 2010 we were contacted by members of Brenchley Parish Council, who also kindly informed us that the war memorial is in the final throes of being fully restored, and also asked permission to use our original transcriptions of the Brenchley victims of war, in a booklet which is being produced. It came as something of a welcome change to be asked, and needless to say we readily agreed to the request, and it is in the hope of being of additional assistance that this Brenchley civic war memorial update has been compiled. Unfortunately, as is the situation with all of the other transcribed Kent war memorials, the details for each of the following casualties varies considerably, due to what the transcriber has to hand, and wishes to emphasize that no disrespect is intended to any casualty.



# The Great War

1914 -1919



**AITKINS, ALBERT REGINALD KNIGHT.** Second Lieutenant.

1/7th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment.

Died 31 May 1915. Aged 30.

Born Honor Oak, Surrey 12 February 1885.

Eldest son of Albert John Aitkens and Ada Louise Aitkens (née Knight) of Windie-Edge, Southborough, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Husband of Phyllis Aitkens (née Kinder) of "Strouds," Horsted Keynes, Sussex.

Buried Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. P. 1.

Commemorated on the Stock Exchange War Memorial, and at Haileybury College, Hertfordshire.

Prior to moving to Southborough, Albert's parents had formerly resided at Brenchley, and at Chislehurst, Kent. Albert was educated at Haileybury College, Hertfordshire, and on leaving Haileybury College he entered the firm of Frank T. Wilson, Stockbrokers, London; during which time he served for five years in the Queen's Westminsters. On 30 November 1912, Albert married Miss Phyllis Kinder at St. Peters Church, Cranley Gardens, London, SW. Having volunteered for military service soon after the commencement of the Great War, Albert obtained a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the 1/7th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment on 14 October 1914. Albert's battalion was part of the 4th London Brigade, 2nd London Division, when it left Watford, Hertfordshire and moved to Southampton on 16 March 1916. On 17 March 1915, the battalion sailed from Southampton on the SS Empress Queen, and arrived at the French port of Harve the following day. Unfortunately it has not been possible thus far to ascertain when, where or how Albert was wounded, and as such it is purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, that it was probably during an attack on enemy positions carried out by the 1/7th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment on 16 May 1915, that he was wounded. Having been evacuated via the medical casualty chain, Albert arrived at

Wimereux, Pas de Calais, where he eventually succumbed to his wounds at one of the hospitals located there. Boulogne and Wimereux formed an important hospital centre during the Great War, and until June 1918, the medical units at Wimereux used the communal cemetery for burials, the south-eastern half having been set aside for Commonwealth graves, although a few burials were also made among the civilian graves. Albert's maternal grandfather; Sir Henry Knight, was the Lord Mayor of London in 1883. Albert's brother is the next casualty briefly commemorated below.



**AITKINS, CYRIL ARTHUR CHARLES.** Lieutenant.

Special Section, "Z" Company, Special Brigade, Royal Engineers.

Died 10 July 1916. Aged 23.

Born Chislehurst, Kent 28 June 1893.

Third son of Albert John Aitkens and Ada Louise Aitkens (née Knight) of Windie-Edge, Southborough, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: VIII. F. 3.

Cyril was educated at Eversley School, Southwold, Suffolk, and at Eastbourne College, Sussex. On the completion of his education, Cyril was articled to the North Eastern Marine Engineering Co Ltd, for a period of five years. At the commencement of the Great War, Cyril volunteered for military service and served as Corporal, 661, in the Tyne Electrical Engineers (Territorial Force), Royal Engineers. On 12 June 1915, Cyril was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, and was posted to France on 24 June 1916. When reading books and documentation about the exceptional heroic wartime exploits of specific officers and other ranks, it sometimes seems unbelievable that irrespective of whether they survived or died, that they received no formal recognition in respect of their gallantry. Mention is made of same because Cyril irrefutably falls within that category, but like many officers of his ilk who consistently carried out actions above and beyond the call of duty, he too was not the recipient of a Military Cross or similar award. Cyril had taken part on the first day of the 'Battle of the Somme' on 1 July 1916. He died of wounds that he had received earlier the same day on 10 July 1916, and was initially buried at

Queen's Nullah, Mametz. At the time of Armistice, the cemetery where Cyril is now at rest consisted of 183 graves, now in Plot I, but it was then very greatly increased by graves almost all of which were casualties from the engagements of 1916 that were brought in from the battlefields north and east of Mametz, and from certain smaller burial grounds, one of which was that of Cyril. Following his death, Cyril's pocket book was found to contain a receipt for 12 German prisoners which was dated 25 June 1916, the entry being the day after his arrival in France. Captain William Howard Livens, M.C. of the Special Section, Special Brigade, Royal Engineers, in a report to Major-General Sir Ivor Maxse, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O. Commanding the 18th (Eastern) Division, wrote the following about Cyril, "This officer behaved with great gallantry in some of the hottest phases of the fighting at the commencement of the offensive. He was able to save the lives of some of his own men, and of several of other units, by skillful dressing in the field, and thus prevent them from bleeding to death." Following Cyril's death, amongst the many letters of condolence sent to his parents was one from a Royal Engineer Sapper, who wrote of Cyril's gallant conduct during the first day 'Battle of the Somme' on 1 July 1916, part of which was as follows. "It was a grand sight; I shall never forget when he led us out of the British trenches on 1 July under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. He took the lead and cheered us on; his words were; 'Remember boys, we can only die once, and better as heroes than cowards.' We got as far as the third German line of trenches when I was wounded; I was shot through the arm and shoulder, he did my wounds up and got me safely back into the dressing station. He also carried a wounded sergeant of another regiment across. I shall never forget him covered in blood. Your son died a hero, and one of the best of gentlemen, I thank him for my life." It is not known if the unnamed Sapper survived the carnage of the Great War, but doubtless he remember Cyril for the rest of his life. Whilst the above is a brief tribute to Cyril, it would be somewhat remiss to not draw attention to the fact that Captain William Howard Livens, who had written so glowingly about Cyril's heroism, was born on 28 March 1889 and died on 1 February 1964. During the Great War he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on 1 January 1918, having been awarded the Military Cross on 14 January 1916. During his lifetime, William Howard Livens invented a plethora of devices for military and civilian use, but unquestionably he is best remembered as being the inventor of the Livens Projector. The Livens Projector was a simple mortar-like weapon that could throw large drums filled with inflammable or toxic chemicals. In the Great War, the Livens Projector became the standard means of delivering gas attacks and it remained in the arsenal of the British army until the early years of the Second World War. The device was first put to practical use by "Z" Company, Special Brigade, Royal Engineers, on the morning of 23 July 1916 when twenty oil projectors were fired, just before an attack on the village of Pozières during the battle of the Somme. William was demobilised from the army on 11 April 1919, and at the commencement of the Second World War he was offered the R.A.F. rank of Air Commodore. He did not take up the Royal Air Force commission preferring to make his contribution to the war effort as a civilian, in which role he felt free to disagree with his seniors, which it is recorded that he often did.





**ALLFREY, HUGH LIONEL.** Captain.

"B" Company, 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion.

The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Killed in action 18 September 1918. Aged 37.

Born Beckenham, Kent 27 August 1881.

Youngest son of the late Edward Richmond Allfrey, and of the late Evelyn Julia Allfrey (née Richmond). of Old Place, Sandhurst, Kent, and of Beckenham, Kent.

Buried Unicorn Cemetery, Vend'huile, Aisne, France. Grave Ref. IV. D. 17.

Commemorated on the Sandhurst, Kent civic war memorial, also on the Wye Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent, Great War memorial plaque, and on the Loretto School, Musselburgh, Scotland, Great War Roll of Honour.

Educated at Rottingdean, Sussex, and the Loretto School, Musselburgh, Scotland, followed later by time spent at Wye Agricultural College, Kent, where he studied from 1901 to 1905. Upon leaving Wye, Hugh farmed at Old Place, Sandhurst, Kent. Afterwards he bought land, and farmed at the Old Parsonage,

Brenchley, Kent. Hugh hunted considerably with the Mid Kent Staghounds, and other local packs. In 1913 he joined the East Kent Yeomanry and was commissioned in May 1913, on the outbreak of the Great War he was mobilised. A Yeomanry veteran of Gallipoli, Egypt, and Palestine, Hugh had been amongst the officers and other ranks that joined "B" Company on 1 March 1917. He was posted to France on 7 May 1918. It was raining heavily when Hugh's battalion had commenced its attack at dawn on 18 September 1918; it was taking part in an assault on the outpost positions of the formidable enemy defences of the Hindenburg Line. Having been subjected to a combined artillery and machine gun barrage, significant numbers of German soldiers began surrendering during the infantry operations that followed. Included amongst the enemy positions that fell during the advance, was the quarries at Templeux le Gerrard, where pits, refuse heaps, holes and caves had all combined to form an ideal location for defence. In unison with other Yeomanry battalions, the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion moved on through the quarries to Hargicourt Trench, the first objective, which was captured at 0800 hours. Having been in a supporting role during the first stages of the days events, Hugh's battalion was in the lead when the attack resumed following a halt for an hour. Whilst the infantry had taken a brief respite, the artillery was being readied in preparation for a fresh barrage, which started to creep forward again as the infantry crossed between 1500 and 2000 yards towards their next assigned objectives, they being Zorga Trench and Rifle Pit Trench. Initially falling away, and then rising towards the entrenched enemy positions, nonetheless the attacking infantry crossed with a great degree of confidence, doubtless buoyed on with the earlier successes of the day, and more so due to the perfection of the supporting renewed artillery bombardment of the enemy. Although held up for some time by accurate and heavy German machine gun as they crossed towards their assigned objectives, ultimately the enemy trenches fell shortly after midday. Another push was of approximately 300 yards was made later towards the 'Exploration Line.' Although due to a variety of reasons, the whole of the line had not met with the same successes as that of the 74th (Yeomanry) Division, to which the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion belonged. Following the days events of 18 September 1918, the 74th (Yeomanry) Division received many compliments from higher command, having captured 18 German officers, 873 other ranks, ten 77mm field guns, three 4.2 howitzers, five trench-mortars, and almost one hundred machine guns. Medal Index Card entry details for Hugh shows: - Captain, Royal Engineers Kent Yeomanry, Territorial Force. The relevant Officers Died in the Great War entry for Hugh shows him as being a member of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry. Both of his parents are at rest in a shared grave at St. George's Churchyard, High Street, Beckenham, Kent, his mother; Evelyn Julia Allfrey died on 28 September 1887 aged 44, and his father Edward Richmond Allfrey who was a Marine Engine Manufacturer, died on 22 August 1901 aged 65. At the time of submitting a formal application to be furnished with Hugh's medals, his brother W. E. Allfrey was residing at Grantbourne, Chobham, Surrey.



**ASHDOWN, ALFRED.** Private, 19983.

5th (Service) Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

Died Sunday 9 April 1916.

Born and resided Horsmonden, Kent. Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Son of William Ashdown and Charity Ashdown (née Bateup) of Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 30.

Formerly 58723, Royal Field Artillery.

At the time of the 1901 census Alfred was 17 years old and employed as a Farm Labourer. He resided with his parents and the rest of his family at Yew Tree Green, Brenchley. Head of the house was 44 year old Horsmonden, Kent native William Ashdown, who like his son was also employed as a Farm Labourer. Alfred was posted to the Balkan war theatre on 19 September 1915. He was killed in action at Sannaiyat, Mesopotamia. Commanded by 49 year old Boer War veteran; Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Courtenay Brabazon Throckmorton, of the 8th Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Alfred's battalion advanced 0420 hours, but direction was lost on the left flank owing to sniping, and small marsh and Turkish starlights coming from disputed direction. Unfortunately the battalion lost its bearings after coming under enemy machine gunfire, and the confusion in darkness. Troops dug in about 650 yards from the designated enemy objective. All day and night the lines continued to be strengthened by men coming in from front. Many wounded men crawled in to the comparative safety of the freshly constructed and many others were collected by their comrades. The battalion War Diary entry for 9 April 1916, shows that "18077 Pte. J.H. Nelson and 9842 Pte. W.G. Price displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in collecting wounded and evacuating them. They have been recommended for the D.C.M." The same entry also shows that Captain Robertson collected the battalion together as far as possible. Initial casualty returns for the day, amounted to 1 officer and 21 other ranks killed. 1 officer and 161 other ranks wounded, and 5 officers and 37 other ranks missing. The officer who fell was Lieutenant-Colonel Throckmorton of Coughton Court, Warwickshire. He retired on 12 January 1907, but during the Great War he was recalled for service. He served in Gallipoli as second-in-command of the 8th (Service) Battalion the Royal Welch Fusiliers, before being promoted Lieutenant-Colonel in November 1915, to command the 3rd Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment, and was later placed in temporary command of Alfred's battalion. Prior to being attached to the Wiltshire Regiment Lieutenant-Colonel Throckmorton had served for over 21 years as an officer in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. It was noted that regrettably Alfred is not commemorated on the immaculate Horsmonden, Kent civic war memorial.



**BAKER, GUY TALBOT.** Lieutenant.

"D" Company, 1st/5th (Weald of Kent) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), (Territorial Force).

Died Monday 7 January 1916. Aged 18.

Born Marylebone, London 18 December 1897.

Son of Sidney Herbert Baker and Helen Gertrude Baker (née Long) of Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XXXI. B. 1.

Guy was baptised on 18 December 1897 at the parish church of St. Mark, Hamilton Terrace, Marylebone, London. At the time of his baptism, the Baker family resided at 25, Hamilton Terrace, Marylebone, near to the church, and Guy's father was a Surveyor. By the time of the 1901 census, 42 year old Londoner Sidney Herbert Baker had made career change, as he was involved with the brewing trade, and was employing staff at which time he was the head of the house at Hildenborough, Kent. Guy was educated at Rugby School. Guy was posted to serve in the Mesopotamian war theatre in September 1914. On Friday 4 January 1916, the 5th (Weald of Kent) Battalion, (Territorial Force), The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was at Ali-el-Gharbi. The battalion moved up the river Tigris towards Sheikh Sa'ad, which is about 20 miles downstream of Kut-al-Amara, with all surplus stores being carried by river barges. The battalion only marched about eight miles due to the prevailing inclement weather conditions, combined with the terrain encountered by the battalion. During the day it was extremely hot, but at nighttime the temperature dropped to below freezing, and rations at the time consisted mainly of bully beef and hard tack biscuits. On 6 January the march was resumed and enemy outposts were reached, and engagements with the enemy commenced shortly after midday, fortunately however casualties to the battalion were light. On 7 January 1916 the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad' was fought, at a point where the Turkish Army had established a camp which held approximately 4000 troops. During the battle, the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion advanced towards the enemy, but as with the other units also attacking the entrenched Ottoman forces during the battle, it did so without the help of supporting artillery, it being in stark contrast to the opposition, as the battalion came under extremely heavy artillery bombardment. As the day wore on the battalion started to suffer increasing casualties, which included the death of the battalion Adjutant, 24 year old Lieutenant Hugh S. Marchant, from Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent. In addition to the loss of the Adjutant, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Munn-Mace was wounded as was Major Eric Clarke. Thomas was one of the thirty seven other ranks in his battalion who were killed in action at Sheikh Sa'ad on 7 January 1916. Despite the Turkish forces which were encamped at Sheikh Sa'ad being in clearly an advantageous position, at the end of the day the position remained stalemate. Under the cover of darkness, several intelligence gathering patrols were sent out from various British and Empire units, all of which on returning to their lines reported that the enemy forces had by that time withdrawn further up the Tigris. The Turkish commander General Nur-Ud-Din had taken the decision to make the move, which a number of commentators have referred to as having been carried out

very quietly, and probably swiftly. No one knew why the Turkish commander had made the strange decision to move his forces from Sheikh Sa'ad,' but as the result of same he was sacked was only a few days later on January 10 being replaced by Khalil Pasha. The month before the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad' was fought, General Nur-Ud-Din when commanding the besieging force at Kut-al-Amara had attempted to offer General Sir Charles Townshend immediate terms of surrender. He sent one of his Staff Captains under a white flag, with a personal letter outlining his demand which was rebuffed, and the Turkish Captain was sent back with a scathing retort written by General Townshend. As all the 37 members of the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion who died on 7 January 1916 at Sheikh Sa'ad, are recorded as having been killed in action, perhaps they way that they lost their lives could in truth be described as being fortunate. British casualties at Sheikh Sa'ad were over 4000. The provision of adequate medical capacity and supplies had not been high on the list of priorities for the limited transport from Basra, and the under equipped Field Ambulances struggled to cope. The Meerut Division had capacity to cope with 250 casualties, but was faced with thousands. More than 1000 wounded men were still lying out in the open, with barely first-aid administered to them, eleven days after the cessation of the fighting and the Turkish departure. Of these, approximately 100 were also suffering from Dysentery, and many of those who had been wounded during the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad,' later succumbed to their woundings. In 1920 a Miss N.S. Baker, who was probably a sister of Guy, submitted an application to the War Office for her to receive the 1914/15 Star, War Medal and Victory Medal in respect of Guy's war service. At which time her contact address was at The Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London, SW7. Presumably by which time Guy's parents were both deceased. The contact address for later correspondence was via Messer Webster & Webster, 2, New Square, Lincolns Inn Fields, London, WC2.

**BARDEN, FREDERICK C.** Gunner, 68415.

29th Division Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 23 October 1915. Aged 20.

Born Capel, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted and resided Brenchley, Kent.

Son of Harry John and Elizabeth Barden (née Langridge) of Palmers Green, Brenchley, Kent.

Buried Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Exohi, Greece. Grave Ref: 640.

Frederick was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below. At the time of the 1901 census, the Barden family resided at Ivey Cottage, Horsmonden, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old Tonbridge, Kent native Harry John Barden, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Frederick was posted to the Balkan war theatre on 10 May 1915. On some of the data accessed to help compile this brief tribute to Frederick, he is recorded as having died of wounds, and on others as having died at sea. It would seem likely that both of the data sources are correct, as it would seem likely that he died of wounds received in a land action, but died on a vessel which was probably a Hospital Ship.



**BARDEN, WILLIAM.** Private, T/1765.

1st/5th (Weald of Kent) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), (Territorial Force).

Died 17 March 1916. Aged 18.

Born Horsmonden, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Brenchley, Kent.

Son of Harry John and Elizabeth Barden (née Langridge) of Palmers Green, Brenchley, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XIX. E. 5.

William was posted to the Asiatic war theatre on 1 December 1915.

**BROMLEY, GEORGE.** Lance Sergeant, 16058.

8th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Died 18 October 1915. Aged 26.

Born and resided Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.

Son of George and Ellen Bromley (née Botten) of Spout Lane, Brenchley, Kent.

Buried La Brique Military Cemetery No. 1, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: F. 12.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Bromley family resided at 3, Spout Lane, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Brenchley native George Bromley (senior), who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Whilst the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment was stationed at Blackdown, Surrey, the battalion was ordered to mobilize for service in France on 21 August 1915. The order for the move to serve in the British Expeditionary Force was later rescinded after the battalion had commenced the move, and on 24 August 1915 it returned to Barracks at Blackdown. On 28 August 1915, a new order of embarkation was received by the Officer Commanding, Major George John Ninian Logan-Home (the 13th Laird of Broomhouse), and as the result of the fresh order the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Stanley Curwen Kennedy, entrained at 2300 hours. On 26 September 1915, whilst George's battalion was taking part in the 'Battle of Loos,' Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy was gassed, and due to same, from 11 October 1915, Captain (Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel), John Sinclair Liddell, C.M.G., D.S.O., commanded George's battalion and remained in command until January 1916 when he was moved to another battalion. Between the time of its arrival in France, until the date of George's death in Belgium, his battalion had made a succession of move due to operational requirements. Fortunately the War Diary entries for the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment are good, however those covering the period from 17 October 1915 to 30 October 1915 are missing from The National Archives, and as such it is not possible to add for certain exactly where or how George died. George's battalion only suffered 2 other ranks deaths on the day that he was killed in action. As the other casualty, Private Thomas Howe of Great Gidding, Huntingdonshire, died of wounds, and is at rest at Essex Farm Cemetery, Boezinge, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, it would seem likely that George might have been out on patrol and was shot by a sniper, at or very near to the small hamlet of La Brique, the hamlet is a named after an old

brick works that used to stand nearby, prior to the devastation suffered in the area during the years of Great War.



**BROOKS, HERBERT.** Private, L/10085.

"C" Company, 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 9 January 1915. Aged 23.

Born and resided Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Stephen Brooks and Elizabeth E. Brooks of Burtons Field, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 1.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Brooks family resided at 3, Burtons Cottages, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 47 year old Horsmonden, Kent native Stephen Brooks, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. As the L prefix on Herbert's number signifies that he was a regular soldier, and although his service papers are amongst those destroyed during a German bombing raid, his medal index card does still exist. Unfortunately, the date of Herbert's posting to the Western Front is almost totally faded on the medal index card, but the date 4 October 1914 can just still be seen, as is the fact that he had been awarded the 1914 Star with the date bar, which is commonly but (still) erroneously referred to as 'The Mons Star.' A regular soldier, William was almost certainly serving in the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) at the commencement of the Great War, stationed at Robert's Heights, Pretoria, South Africa. On 19 August 1914 the battalion left for Cape Town, and arrived there four days later, sailing from Table Bay on 27 August aboard H.M.T Kenilworth Castle. Arriving in Southampton on the 19 September 1914, the 2nd Battalion made its way to Lyndhurst, Hampshire, where on 20 September 1914 it became part of the 22nd Infantry Brigade, 7th Division. During the week of 21 to 27 September, the officers and some of the other ranks in the battalion were given 24 hour leave passes to visit their relatives. The remainder of September was spent in preparation for the 7th Division's move to France, for service in the British Expeditionary Force. On 4 October 1914 the battalion, which was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel M.C. Coles and was comprised of 30 officers and 988 other ranks, embarked at Southampton, from where "A" and "B" Companies sailed on the SS Cymric on 5 October and landed at Zeebrugge, Belgium the following day. "C" and "D" Companies sailed on the SS Turkoman on 6 October and landed at Zeebrugge the next day. As was the early situations with virtually all of the units serving in the British Expeditionary Force, William's battalion was forced to make a significant number of tactical movements. Following the 1914 (unofficial) Christmas Truce, during the course of which the Germans provided the battalion with a list of captured British officers, the battalion moved to reserve positions at Rue Delpierre in the Fleurbaix sector. The 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) held trenches east of



La Boutillerie, and reserve line at Rue Delpierre throughout January and February. Entries in the War Diary of the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment during the Great War, records a few casualties each day at and around Rue Delpierre in the Fleurbaix sector, due to the combination of enemy guns and snipers, Herbert being one of the two deaths that were suffered by his battalion on the day that he fell.

**BURR, THOMAS.** Private, 5375.

1st Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).

Died 18 June 1916.

Enlisted Handel Street. Resided Westminster, London.

Buried Hebuterne Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: II. H. 7.

Only one matching casualty is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Regrettably Soldiers Died in the Great War does not show Thomas's place of birth. It was noted that at the time of the 1891 census, Royal Tunbridge Wells native, THOMAS E. BURR who was then aged 12, was recorded by the census enumerator as residing with his family at 16, Bullen Road, Tonbridge, Kent. His parents were Thomas E. Burr and Mary Burr, who were probably Thomas Edward Burr and Mary Ann Burr (née Deeley) who were married in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1875. Purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but it would seem feasible that the 12 year old boy recorded on the 1891 census, and the casualty who is commemorated on the Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial is in fact the same person.

**CLARK, HARRY.** Private, G/6492.

2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 17 April 1916. Aged 32.

Born Eridge, Sussex. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Brenchley, Kent.

Husband of Sarah Clarke of 136, Silverdale Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 29.

The 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) which was a regular army battalion was stationed at Multan, India at the commencement of the Great War. Harry's regimental number signifies that he was not a regular soldier, as the G prefix signifies that he had been a member of one of the Home Counties Service Battalions. Harry's battalion was moved to the Mesopotamia war theatre, and arrived at Basra on 6 February 1915, attached to the 12th Indian Brigade. Two companies of the battalion were attached to the 30th Brigade in the 6th (Poona) Division in November 1915. The battalion was amongst those which were besieged at Kut-al-Amara, where Harry was killed in action. The remainder of the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) was captured on 29 April 1916. Following the fall of Kut-al-Amara, as was the case with a huge proportion of those captives of the Turks, many of Harry's former comrades died during the infamous long marches, suffering appallingly at the hands of their guards.

**COGGER, WILLIAM THOMAS.** Private, 10518.

3rd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.

Died 22 October 1914. Aged 33.

Born and resided Paddock Wood, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of the late Henry and Emily Cogger.

Buried Brompton Cemetery, Fulham Road, London. SW10 9UG.

Grave Ref: N. 172641.

Periodically when carrying out researches on the victims of war, men (and occasionally women) are revealed who for a variety of reasons served in the armed forces whilst using an alias. William enlisted and served in the British army as THOMAS SMITH. A regular soldier, William/Thomas left Tidworth with the 3rd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment at 0500 hours on the morning of 12 August 1914 heading for Southampton. Although the battalion arrived at Southampton Docks later the same day, it was not until early the following morning that the S.S. Bosnian transporting the battalion sailed for France, and arrived off the French port of Harve on 15 August, and then sailed on to Rouen the following day, where the battalion commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel B.F.B. Smart embarked during the evening. Although it has been established that William/Thomas died of wounds, unfortunately it has not been possible to find out where, when or how he was wounded. As can be seen above, by the time that the additional family details of the Great War Commonwealth war dead, were added by the then Imperial War Graves Commission in the early 1920's, the parents of the above casualty had died. But prior to her death, his mother submitted a formal application to be furnished with the 1914 in respect of the services of her late son. At the time of summing the medal claim, (as Mrs. Smith) she resided at 119, Wallsowen Street, Birmingham, Warwickshire.

**DOUCH, EDWIN.** Private, 29591.

2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Died 1 August 1917.

Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Bedford, Bedfordshire. Resided Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

Son of George Vousden Douch and Mary Ann E. Douch (née Baldock).

Buried Bedford House Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: Enclosure No.2 II. B. 25.

At the time of the 1901 census Edwin was an 18 year old Farm Labourer, residing with his family at Pettridge Woodgate Building No. 3, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 38 year old Brenchley native George Douch who like his eldest son Edwin; he too was also employed as a Farm Labourer. Due to the fact that Edwin died of wounds, as opposed to having been killed in action, combined with the fact that he was not an officer, means that it has not been possible to find out for certain on which date etcetera he was wounded. On the day prior to his death, Edwin's battalion took part in the 'Battle of Pilckem Ridge,' when the Allies gained approximately 2,000 yards, but at a cost of about thirty two thousand casualties, either killed, wounded or missing. The attack by Fifth Army commenced at 0350 hours, and at 0600 hours Edwin's battalion left the position



H.27.a. and then moved to Chateau Segard. Having arrived at the Chateau at 0650 hours, the battalion left there at 1015 hours go to a position named Promenade Trench, which was located immediately to the south of Zillebeke Lake, which the battalion reached at 1130 hours. At 1615 hours the battalion left Promenade Trench for its assembly position which was to the north of Maple Copse, and half an hour later it was in the assembly position in Artillery formation in file, to the north west of Maple Copse. Orders were then received that Edwin's battalion on the left, and the 19th (Service) Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment on right were to attack a German held position named Jargon Trench, which was located to the west of Glencorse Wood. "A" and "B" Companies of the battalion were in the front line, with "C" Company in support, and "D" Company in reserve. At 1700 hours, instructions were sent to the 19th (Service) Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment, that Edwin's battalion was ready to move off. Having got ready for the attack, at 0550 hours fresh orders were received cancelling attack. The 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment then withdrew approximately 200 yards, and lay in another field about 300 yards to the east of Dormy House. At exactly 0530 hours heavy shelling of the area by enemy 5.9's commenced in the immediate vicinity of where the battalion was located. Half an hour after the German shelling had commenced, orders were received that battalion were to occupy Jackdaw Reserve Trench immediately after dark, relieving elements of 90th Brigade.

**DUMBRELL, ARTHUR GEORGE.** Private, G/21495.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 2 October 1918.

Born enlisted and resided Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Grave Ref: 510.

As part of the research process carried out when trying to ascertain the correct identity of the above casualty, various census and other data was checked, the 1891 census revealed that residing at 18, Station Road, Brenchley, Kent, was the Dumbrell family, and included amongst the four children of Stephen and Eliza Dumbrell (née Mace) was Brenchley native 7 year old Arthur Dumbrell, who was probably the soldier above. George was the only loss by his battalion on the day that he died of illness or disease.

**FEAVER, PERCY DAVID.** Lance Corporal, 43251.

89th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died 23 October 1916.

Born Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent. Enlisted Brenchley, Kent.

Son of John and Ellen Feaver (née Sellens).

Buried Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: V. C. 13.

Also commemorated on the Matfield, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, G/1963, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

At the time of the 1901 census, the Feaver family resided at The Green, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Brenchley native John

Feaver, who was an Own Account Carpenter and Builder. Percy was recorded by the census enumerator as being 4 years old, and as such he would have been about 19 years old when he died. A year of warfare on the Western Front proved that to be fully effective, machine guns must be used in larger units, and crewed by specially trained men. To fulfill this need, the formation of the Machine Gun Corps was authorized, and was formed by Royal Warrant on 14 October 1915. The 89th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) in which Percy was serving when he was mortally wounded, was formed at Grantham, Lincolnshire. Following his transfer from The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in which he had probably served as a machine gunner, despite which, Percy would have been trained as a machine gunner at the Machine Gun Corps depot and training centre at Belton Park, Grantham. Percy's company was posted to France, and it joined the 30th Division at Sailly Laurette, on the Somme on Monday 13 March 1916. Due mainly to the fact that Percy died of wounds, it has not been possible to add at this brief commemoration of him, exactly where, when, or how he was mortally wounded, during the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' At the time of Percy's demise, the 36th, 38th and the 2/2nd London, Casualty Clearing Stations, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, were at the village of Mericourt-l'Abbe, and they started and used the cemetery where Percy is at rest from May 1916 until April 1917. It was not for nothing that the Machine Gun Corps was dubbed "The Suicide Club," as approximately 170,500 officers and men served in the M.G.C. during the years that it existed during the Great War, of which 62,049 of its officers and other ranks became casualties, including 12,498 being killed.

**GATWARD, ROLAND.** Private, 84129.

6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

Died 28 April 1919. Aged 28.

Born Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent 4 August 1890. Enlisted London, Ontario, Canada 17 November 1914. Resided Aylmer, Ontario, Canada.

Son of Henry Gatward and Julia Maria Gatward (née Farris) of The Grove, Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Grave Ref: South boundary, left of gate.

Commemorated on the Aylmer, Ontario, Canada Cenotaph, also commemorated on page 534 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Gatward family resided at Petteridge Place, Brenchley. Head of the house was 39 year old Kelshal, Hertfordshire native Henry Gatward, who was employed as a Domestic Coachman. At the time of his attestation on 17 November 1914, Roland stated that he was a Tailor, and that he had served in the 30th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery. Purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but in view of the place of enlistment, and dates of same in 1914, plus the Canadian Artillery Brigade served in by both, it would seem likely that Roland, and Sidney Hodges who is one of the casualties commemorated below might have been friends, and that they might have actually emigrated to Canada together. It would seem likely that Petteridge Place, Brenchley, was Roland's actual place of birth, because that is

also shown as being the Gatward family place of residence when the 1891 census was conducted, at which time Roland was only 8 months old. The 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, onboard the 14,878 White Star Line liner, S.S. "Magantic" on 23 February 1915. On its arrival in England the 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery was immediately turned into the Canadian Reserve Artillery, the identity of the Brigade and Batteries entirely disappearing, and its personnel being used in the formation of the 8th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery the organization of which was authorized on 19 September 1915. In November 1915, the designation was changed to 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery and the Batteries were then renumbered. The 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery proceeded to France on 10 January 1916, and then served as part of the 2nd Canadian Divisional Artillery. After the signing of the Armistice, the 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery served in Germany as part of the Army of Occupation.

**HEAD, GEORGE.** Private, G/13671.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 3 May 1917. Aged 25.

Born Sandhurst, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Brenchley, Kent.

Son of George and Elizabeth Head, of 2, Council Cottages, Hildenborough, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Bay 2.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Head family resided at Lucks Lane, Brenchley. Head of the house was 38 year old Benenden, Kent native George Head (senior), who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Formerly Private, 1631, 2nd/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Having enlisted in the army on 2 September 1914, exactly two years later George was awarded a Good Conduct badge. Resultant of a medical examination which was conducted on 5 January 1916, George was deemed unfit for active service due to problems with his teeth. It is not clear if at the time of his posting to the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 30 December 1916, George's health problem had been dealt with, or if due to wartime necessity the army chose to ignore it. Initially George was numbered amongst the members of his battalion who were posted as 'Missing' on 3 May 1917, but subsequently that date was accepted for official purposes as being the date of his death. At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', George's battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant



McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B. Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack

came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance,” also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant’s Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a “Buff,” we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram M.C. later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C. Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both R.F.C. officers thankfully survived the war.

**HICKMOTT, EDWIN.** Private, 307524.

2nd/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment).

Died 10 May 1917.

Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Belvedere, Kent.

Son of Charles and Fanny Hickmott.

Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.

Grave Ref: P. I. I. 3B.

At the time of the 1910 census, the then 16 year old Edwin was employed as a Stockman’s Mate, and was a boarder with a 24 year old Stockman, Frederick Stephen Humphrey and his wife 22 year old Ellen Humphrey (née Bromley), both of whom were natives of Brenchley, Kent, and residing at Tank Cottages, Wadhurst, Sussex. When the above census was conducted, Edwin’s parents resided at “South Field,” Petteridge, Brenchley. Head of the house was 48 year old Brenchley native Charles Hickmott, who was employed as a Carpenter.

**HODGES, SIDNEY.** Corporal Smith, 83910.

6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery.

Died 12 November 1918. Aged 24.

Born Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent 18 November 1893. Enlisted London Ontario, Canada 18 December 1914.

Son of Ellen Bourne (formerly Hodges) (née Robbins) of the Central Stores, Brenchley, Kent, and of the late Frederick Hodges.

Buried Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Calais, Pas de Calais. France.

Grave Ref: VI. F. 11A.

Also commemorated on page 430 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Hodges family resided at The Forge, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Yalding, Kent native Frederick Hodges, who was the village Blacksmith and an employer. At the time of his attestation on 18 December 1914, Sidney named his father Frederick Hodges as his next of kin, and as residing at The Forge, Brenchley, Kent. Apparently Sidney was following in his fathers' footsteps, as he stated that he was a Shoeing Smith when he enlisted, and that he was a member of the Militia serving in the 9th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery. For additional brief details appertaining to the 6th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, please also see Rowland Gatward's commemoration.

**HOOK, ARTHUR HENRY.** Private, G/3036.

8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 10 November 1916. Aged 23.

Born and resided Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Cranbrook, Kent.

Son of George and Amy Elizabeth Hook (née Blackman) of Corsica Nursery, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais. France.

Grave Ref: I. E. 34.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Hook family resided at 19 Castle Hill, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent. Head of the house was 54 year old Brenchley native George Hook (senior), who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. Arthur was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated. Another brother, Percy Captain Hook; served as a Private in the Bedfordshire Regiment during the Great War. Fortunately Percy survived the carnage of the war, but he suffered a head wound from an enemy shell on 27 March 1918. Whilst not actually unique, as similar situations have been noted at different times by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but as can be seen when view the burial locations of the Hook brothers, that despite serving in totally different units, and losing their lives six months apart, both are at rest in the same French communal cemetery. It would also appear that both of the brothers died from wounds, whilst receiving treatment for same as patients at the 6th Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps, when it was stationed at the village of Barlin.

**HOOK, GEORGE ALFRED.** Corporal, 86919.

4th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery. 2nd Canadian Division.

Died 8 May 1917. Aged 25.

Born Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent 4 December 1891. Enlisted Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 4 December 1914.

Son of George and Amy Elizabeth Hook (née Blackman) of Corsica Nursery, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais. France.

Grave Ref: III. A. 38.



Also commemorated on page 258 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of his attestation on 14 December 1914, George named his mother Amy Hook as his next of kin, and as residing at Pertridge, Matfield, Kent. The 4th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery. 2nd Canadian Division, in which George was serving at the time of his death, was comprised of the 13th, 19th, and 27th Field Batteries, and the 21st Howitzer Battery. As George had died of wounds at the 6th Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps, at Barlin, it has not been possible to find out when, where or how he had been wounded. During the weeks leading up to the date of his demise, the 4th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery had taken part in a number of major engagements with the enemy, which had included the Battle of Vimy from 9 to 14 April 1917, the attack on La Coulotte on 23 April 1917, the Battle of Arleux on 28 and 29 April 1917, and the Third Battle of the Scarpe on 3 and 4 May 1917. During the above engagements, as was the case during virtually every major battle amongst the opposing sides during the Great War, the majority of casualties suffered by artillerymen were inflicted by their opposite numbers, and as such whilst purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, it would seem very likely that George's wounds were caused by German artillery.

**HUNTLEY, CHARLES.** Private, 24342.

60th Protection Company, Royal Defence Corps.

Died 8 June 1916. Aged 47.

Born Horsmonden, Kent. Enlisted and resided Brenchley, Kent.

Son of Elizabeth Huntley of Brenchley, Kent, and of the late Charles Huntley.

Husband of Angelina Huntley (née Oxley) of Castle Hill, Brenchley, Kent.

Buried Fort Pitt Military Cemetery, Chatham, Kent. Grave Ref: 1398.

Formerly Private, 20164, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, 30 year old George was the head of the house at 11, Leyton Road, South Wimbledon, Surrey, and was employed as a Bricklayer. He resided with his 32 year old wife Angelina Huntley who was also a native of Brenchley, and with his 3 year old son Charles (junior) who was a native of Wimbledon, Surrey. Charles was recorded as having been a Bricklayer, at the time of the 1891 census when he was residing at Clampfilds, Brenchley, with his 41 year old widowed mother Elizabeth Huntley.

**JONES, GEORGE.** Private, 26370.

11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 12 December 1916.

Born Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent. Enlisted Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

Resided Thorney, Cambridgeshire.

Buried Humbercamps Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. E. 10.

George appears to have been the son of Andrew and Elizabeth Jones, who at the time of the 1891 census resided at 2, Gardeners Cottages, Brenchley, Kent.

George was recorded as being 3 years old by the census enumerator.

**JUDGE, ROBERT CHARLES.** Private, L/7700.

1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 23 August 1915.

Born Staplehurst, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Brenchley, Kent.

Son of John and Charlotte Judge of Tabors Cottages, Horsmonden, Kent.

Husband of Ellen Kathleen Underdown (formerly Judge) (née Roberts) of 1, Rose Cottages, Maidstone, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried Hamburg Cemetery, Germany. Grave Ref: III. B. 11.

Commemorated on the Horsmonden, Kent civic war memorial, and is recorded in The Book of Life, Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, Surrey.

Robert enlisted in the army as a regular soldier for 3 years with the colours and 9 years in the reserve, on 5 January 1903. At the time of his enlistment, Robert stated that he was 18 years and 8 months old, and that he was employed as a Porter. Following his enlistment, Robert was attested to serve in The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Initially, Robert trained at The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), Regimental Depot, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey until 4 February 1903, when he was posted to the 1st Battalion of his regiment. He served in the 1st Battalion for only a short time, as he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion on 7 April 1903 and posted to South Africa where he served until 7 June 1904 when the battalion returned home. Having completed his regular army commitment, Robert was serving at Shorncliffe, Kent, when he was placed on the Army Reserve for 9 years commencing from 27 January 1906. Robert married Miss Ellen Kathleen Roberts at the parish church of St. Margaret's Horsmonden, Kent on 22 October 1910. On 5 August 1914 it being the day after Great Britain's declaration of war, Robert was mobilized and the following day he was posted to serve in the 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) in which he then remained until his death. Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson Warren, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) sailed from Southampton on the SS Braemar Castle on 12 August 1914, and arrived at the French port of Harve the during the morning of the following day. As was the case with the bulk of the regular British battalions serving in the British Expeditionary Force during the early stages of the Great War, Robert's battalion was forced to make a series of moves as battles ebbed and flowed. On 12 September 1914, the battalion marched via Fere, Loupeigne, Bruys, and Bazoches to Vauxcéré. The next day going to Longueval, from where it crossed the river Aisne to Bourg, and moved to bivouacs on the northern side of the village. The following day the battalion marched via Moulins to Paissy, and deployed to the north-east of the village. Later in the day the battalion moved forward across the Chemin des Dames and into a wood which was located approximately 150 yards to the north of the road. It was whilst his battalion was in the wood, that Robert received a superficial gunshot wound to his buttock, for which he received treatment at the 9th Field Ambulance, Royal Army medical Corps, before being treated at the 2nd General Hospital at Harve. Robert was 'Discharged to duty,' on 7 October 1914. The events appertaining to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) on 31 October 1914 when Robert was captured, were described with good reason by Colonel H.

C. Wyllly, C.B. as being "one of the worst days experienced by the 1st Battalion during the whole war," in his history of the regiment during the Great War. By way of an illustration, Colonel Wyllly noted that on 1 November 1914, the 1st Battalion was comprised of 2 Corporals, 2 Lance Corporals, and 20 Privates in "A" Company. 4 Privates in "B" Company. 2 Privates in "C" Company, plus 1 Lance Corporal and 1 Private in "D" Company. The 32 other ranks which constituted the battalion had included Cooks, and members of the Transport Section. Robert died of Nephritis (inflammation of the kidney) whilst he was receiving treatment for the condition as a hospital patient, at the Güstrow Prisoner of War Camp No.97, Mecklenberg, Germany. At the time of Robert's death, his wife resided at Wrangling Green, Brenchley. The War Cemetery in Hamburg where Robert is at rest is situated within a large civil cemetery known locally as 'Ohlsdorf Cemetery.'

**LAMBERT, GORDON CONRAD.** Private, 683899.

2nd/22nd (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (The Queen's).

Died 31 October 1917. Aged 32.

Born Horsmonden, Kent 14 January 1885. Enlisted Bunhill Row, London. Resided Brenchley, Kent.

Second son of Edwin and Dorothy Lambert (née Naegeli) of "Merricote," Brenchley, Kent.

Buried Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: J. 64.

Formerly Rifleman, 4174, 5th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (London Rifle Brigade), and Private, 7024, 2nd/22nd (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (The Queen's). At the time of the 1901 census, the Lambert family resided at "Sunbury," Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Lamberhurst, Sussex native Edwin Lambert, who was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as the Returning Officer for Births Marriages and Deaths etc. The then 17 year old Gordon was recorded as being employed as an Auctioneers Clerk. Gordon's mother was recorded as being 48 year old native of Zurich, Switzerland. She was the daughter of Johan Jakob Naegeli of Zurich. Gordon was educated at The Heath Private School, Horsmonden, Kent where amongst his other accomplishments he excelled at art. Prior to his military service, Gordon was employed as an Artist by Messrs Garratt & Atkinson, Engravers and Artists of Ealing, London. He enlisted in the army in March 1916. Gordon was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1916, and subsequently served with the Salonika Army from December 1916. Gordon was sent to serve in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in Palestine from July 1917, and fell during the fighting near Beersheba, Palestine. At the time of Gordon's death; his father was the relieving officer for No3. District, Tonbridge, Kent, and was also the Registrar for Births Marriages and Deaths for the Brenchley, Kent sub-district, Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District, Merricote.



**LAVENDER, CHARLES JAMES.** Private, G/4061.

"C" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 27 September 1916. Aged 22.

Born Mountfield, Battle, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Maidstone, Kent.

Son of James Lavender of East View, Gun Farm, Horsmonden, Kent, and of the late Alice Lavender (née Waterhouse).

Husband of Annie Kate Lavender of 12, Warwick Place, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Lavender family resided at The Green, Horsmonden, Kent. Head of the house was 32 year old Robertsbridge, Sussex native James Lavender, who was employed as a Gardener and a Groom. Charles enlisted in the army in October 1914, and was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated. Unfortunately Charles is erroneously commemorated on the Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial as JAMES C. LAVENDER.

**LAVENDER, DENNIS J.** Private, G/9548.

2nd Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 28 October 1918.

Born Mountfield, Battle, Sussex. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Son of James Lavender of East View, Gun Farm, Horsmonden, Kent, and the late Alice Lavender (née Waterhouse).

Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XVIII. F. 1/29.

On the census entry referred to above at his brother Charles's brief commemoration, Dennis was recorded by the census enumerator as being 4 years old, and as such he would have been about 21 years old when he died.

**LEANNEY, GEORGE WILLIAM.** Private, G/5102.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 22 July 1916.

Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of John and Jane Leaney.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Leaney family resided at Gate House Farm, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old Leigh, Kent native John Leaney, who was a Farm Carter. George was recorded by the census enumerator as being 5 years old, and as such he would have been about 21 years old when he died. George was posted to France on 23 April 1915. Initially George had been posted as missing, but later the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes, it was assumed that George had died on or after 22 July 1916.

**LEVETT, RICHARD HENRY.** Second Lieutenant.

9th (Reserve) Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), attached to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 20 August 1916. Aged 33.

Born Brenchley, Kent.

Eldest son of George and Margaret Levett of High Firs, Brenchley, Kent.

Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.

Grave Ref: South boundary, left of gate.

At the time of the 1901 census, Richard resided at Gate House, Goudhurst, Kent. Head of the house was Richard's uncle; 52 year old Cranbrook, Kent native William Levett who was a widower, and a farmer employing workers. The then 17 year old Richard, was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as an Articled Clerk. Richard had finished his education at Tonbridge School, Kent as a Day Boy from 1898 to 1900. On leaving the school at the age of 17, Richard's first employment was with Mr. G.P. Hinds (Solicitor) of Goudhurst, Kent, which would explain why he was residing with his uncle in April 1901. To further his career in the legal profession, Richard then became the Managing Clerk with Lee, Ockerby and Everington of London. In 1906 he was admitted as a Solicitor, and on 1 September 1913, Richard entered into a partnership with Mr. Thomas Buss; Solicitor and Coroner of Royal Tunbridge Wells, forming Buss & Levett (Solicitors), of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. For a time during his partnership, Richard acted as the Deputy Coroner for the Royal Tunbridge Wells District of Kent. On 18 January 1915, Richard and his younger brother Edward George Levett enlisted together in the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps, and Richard served as Private, A/2710, and Edward served as Private, A/2740. On the completion of their training with the Inns of Court O.T.C., the Levett brothers were both commissioned as Second Lieutenants on 29 April 1915. Richard was posted to the 9th (Reserve) Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and Edward to the 12th (Reserve) Battalion, Essex Regiment. Due to ill health, reluctantly Edward was forced to relinquish his commission on 11 July 1916, and on 19 February 1917 he submitted an application to be awarded a Silver War Badge, doubtless in an attempt to ward off the attention of the ladies of the 'White Feather Brigade, unfortunately he was informed that his application for the badge had been rejected on 29 February 1917. On May 23 1915, Richard was attached to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). From Christmas 1915 to May 1916, Richard acted as the Assistant Adjutant of the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, and from May 1916 to August 1916 he served as the Acting Regimental Adjutant. Following a brief illness, an attack of blood poisoning being followed by peritonitis and double pneumonia resulted in Richard's death at the Chatham, Kent Military Hospital. He was buried with full military honours as befitted his rank, at All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent. Richard's funeral was conducted by the Vicar of Brenchley; the Reverend Percy Scott Whelan. Amongst the many letters of condolence which were sent to Richard's parents, was one from his Commanding Officer, part of which reads "Your son was one of our most valuable officers, always doing his duty without considering his own convenience. I was looking forward to working with him as Adjutant, a position he

had well earned by his work as Asst Adjutant. He was most popular with all ranks and his loss is deeply felt by us all. Your clergyman in his address in church expressed better than I can what we felt about him. I cannot speak too highly of your son. I have lost a friend as well as a very good officer. Something of an anomaly was revealed whilst carrying out the research in order to compile this brief commemoration of Richard; it being that by far and away the bulk of the data sources etcetera checked, indicated that all of his time in the army had been spent serving in England, but a matching medal index card was found it being indicative of him having served overseas, albeit probably for only a brief time. Richard's father; George Levett was a well known Farmer and Hop Grower in the Brenchley area for many years.



**MANWARING, JACK LANCASTER. M.C. Second Lieutenant.**

3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, attached to the 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Died 15 November 1916. Aged 32.

Born Cranbrook, Kent.

Son of Harry Manwaring and Ellen Kate Mannering of "Poulhurst," Brenchley, Kent.

Husband of Mrs. Martha Lancaster of 439, West Cleveland Avenue, Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.

In 1901 Jack emigrated to Canada when he was only 16 years old, which is where he met and later married his wife Martha who was eight years his senior. After a number of moves, Jack and his wife eventually settled in Lethbridge, Alberta. A Journalist by profession, Jack was at one time the city editor of the 'Lethbridge Herald,' and also the Secretary of the Lethbridge Board of Trade, becoming a well respected and prominent member of the Lethbridge local community. Following the commencement of the Great War, as opposed to enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Jack quickly made the decision to return to England in order to enlist as an officer in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). On 31 October 1914, Jack and his wife arrived at the Port of



London from Canada onboard the 13,404 ton Cunard Line ship Andania. When they arrived at London, Jack and Martha gave their destination address as being "Springbrook," Marden, Kent. Following his enlistment, Jack initially served as a Second Lieutenant in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Jack was later transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry. The citation for his Military Cross reads as follows:- "When on patrol duty he successfully completed a reconnaissance, although three machine guns were brought to bear on him. On another occasion he lay out for some hours by the enemy's wire and obtained accurate information." Jack was taken ill suffering from pneumonia, and died in hospital in Lancashire on 15 November 1916. Jack's father who was a native of Brenchley, and other Manwaring family members were all farmers, who between them farmed (mainly hops) quite extensive areas of Brenchley, Matfield, Lamberhurst, and Horsmonden.

**MITCHELL, ROBERT.** As commemorated on the Brenchley civic war memorial is possibly the following local casualty, who was born, resided and is buried in Brenchley. Possibly Godfrey was known to all and sundry as Robert Mitchell.

**MITCHELL, GODFREY WILLIAM ROBERT.** Boy 2nd Class, J/90733.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Ganges II.

Died 25 September 1918. Aged 18.

Born Brenchley, Kent 24 June 1901.

Son of Godfrey William Mitchell and Frances Mitchell (née Underdown) of Spout Lane, Brenchley, Kent.

Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.

Grave Ref: South boundary, left of gate.

At the time of the 1901 census it being prior to his birth, Godfrey's parents resided at Puxted Gate Cottage, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 26 year old Brenchley native Godfrey William Mitchell, who was employed as a Market Gardener. Godfrey was numbered amongst the trainees who died of Influenza whilst still in training at the Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk, based Royal Navy Boys training establishment H.M.S. Ganges II. The worldwide Influenza pandemic which cost Robert his life, and ultimately resulted in more deaths than the war related deaths of the Great War, lasted from approximately July 1918 to April 1919, with a major peak in the United Kingdom between September 1918 and January 1919.



**MOON, FRANK.** Private, G/63.

11th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Lewisham).

Died 20 September 1917.

Born Paddock Wood, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Alfred and Caroline Moon (née Taylor).

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 106 to 108m as shown above.

At the time of the 1901 census the Moon family resided at Brick Kiln House, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Tenterden, Kent native Alfred Moon, who was employed as a Farm Carter. Frank was recorded by the census enumerator as being aged 8, and as such he would have been about 24 years old when he died. He was recorded by the enumerator, as being one of the nine children of Alfred and Caroline, whose ages ranged from 14 to 1 year old. Mrs. Caroline Moon was a native of Horsmonden, Kent.

**PARKES, REGINALD.** Rifleman, R/38911.  
8th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.  
Died 13 October 1917. Aged 19.  
Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Grove Park, Kent.  
Son of William Dunster Parkes and Sarah Ann Parkes (née Jackman) of Mount Pleasant, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.  
Buried Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: I. P. 22.  
Reginald was a half brother of the next two casualties who are briefly commemorated below.

**PARKES, THOMAS DUNSTER.** Private, M2/097923.  
Clearing Office, Royal Army Service Corps.  
Died 10 March 1919. Aged 25.  
Born Brenchley, Kent.  
Son of William Dunster Parkes and of the late Mary Ann Parkes (née Snashall) of Mount Pleasant, Brenchley, Kent.  
Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.  
Grave Ref: South boundary, left of gate.  
Formerly Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Brother of William Parkes who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. Thomas and William's mother died in 1895, and their father later married Miss Sarah Ann Jackman, during the third quarter of the same year in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District. At the time of the 1901 census the Parkes family resided at Spring Hill, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Brenchley native William Dunster Parkes, who was an Own Account Coach Builder working from home. It was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations whilst researching, that on some data sources accessed that William Dunster Parkes is also recorded as having later been a self-employed Blacksmith at Brenchley.

**PARKES, WILLIAM ALEXANDER.** Lance Corporal, WR/25991.  
340th Railway Construction Company, Royal Engineers.  
Died 13 October 1918. Aged 27.  
Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Tonbridge, Kent.  
Son of William Dunster Parkes and of the late Mary Ann Parkes (née Snashall) of Mount Pleasant, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.  
Husband of Kathleen Ellen Parkes of Hawkwell Cottages, Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.  
Grave Ref: South boundary, left of gate.

**PURSGLOVE, WILLIAM SAMUEL.** Private, L/10655.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 3 July 1916. Aged 19.

Born Buxted, Uckfield, Sussex 24 March 1897. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Resided Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Son of William Thomas Pursglove and Frances Louisa Pursglove (née Winn) of Castle Hill, Brenchley, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D.

At the time of the 1901 census the Pursglove family resided at Pound Green, Buxted, Sussex. Head of the house was 31 year old Barcombe, Lewis, Sussex native William Pursglove (senior) who was a self employed Grocer and Shopkeeper. William (junior) enlisted in the army as a regular soldier for a term of 7 years with the colours and 5 years in the reserve on 22 November 1915. At the time of enlisting, William stated that he was employed as a Farm Labourer, and that he wished to serve in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Having passed his requisite army medical examination at Goudhurst, Kent, William joined his chosen regiment at Canterbury, Kent on 27 November 1915, and 5 days later he was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), at The Citadel, Western Heights, Dover, Kent. On the completion of his training and service with the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Samuel was transferred to the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 20 April 1916, when he was posted to France. As William's battalion rested in a reserve position in a field near the Somme village of Millencourt on 1 July 1916, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, there was a mixture of excitement, apprehension and initial relief when news came through from the front, that all was going well, and that "all objectives had been gained," but later came the news that the assault on Ovillers had failed. Resulting from the first days failure to capture the village of Ovillers, the battalion moved at night to occupy trenches facing the village which was once again heavily bombarded by the artillery. Early on the morning of 3 July the battalion were ready to attack the enemy troops holding Ovillers, at about 0330 hours "A" Company moved forward in platoons, initially with few losses until it reached the German barbed wire entanglements, but later waves of "A" Company and those of "C" Company had a high casualty rate, those soldiers who did manage to actually get into the enemy trenches bombed the dugouts. The soldiers who were being led with Second Lieutenant, Thomas C. Farmer carried out the bombing with noted accuracy and skill, which observers likened to a field-day work (training). Due to the high casualty rate being inflicted on the men carrying more hand grenades to the bombing parties, resulted in the supply of them running out, which in turn led to Second Lieutenant, Farmer carrying out a fighting withdrawal from the German trenches at Ovillers. 3 July 1916 cost William's battalion 274 casualties in dead, wounded and missing, William being recorded as having been killed in action.



**READ, HAROLD.** Private, T/270892.

"C" Company, 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 6 September 1918.

Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Paddock Wood, Kent.

Son of John Read.

Buried Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: V. D. 15.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Read family resided at Brenchley. Head of the house was 47 year old Lamberhurst, Kent native John Read, who was an Own Account Painter, and a widower. The then 19 year old Harold, was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Domestic House Boy. Formerly Private, 3/1st Royal West Kent Yeomanry. A Yeomanry veteran of the campaigns in Egypt and Palestine, Harold had been numbered amongst the officers and other ranks that were posted to serve in "C" Company, 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), on 1 March 1917. As part of the 230th Brigade, 74th Yeomanry Division, Harold's battalion was taking part in the pursuit of the retreating German army in the Péronne area of the Somme. Having taken part in an attack on enemy positions which roughly followed the line of the Canal du Nord, immediately south of south of the village Moislains, on 2 September 1918, Harold's battalion was then heavily shelled for two days, by the combination High Explosive and Gas shells, whilst occupying a position to the south of the village Moislains, approximately 20 miles northwest of Saint Quentin. After holding the position, Harold's battalion was then relieved by soldiers of the 229th Brigade. It was learned by scouting patrols, that the enemy holding a position named 'Midinettes Trench' immediately to the east of the Canal du Nord was strong. Despite being aware of the strength of the defenders of 'Midinettes Trench,' on 5 September, two platoons of "C" Company, 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), pushed forward in order to keep up with the 47th (London) Division on its left flank, and was able to capture 'Midinettes Trench' without much by way of serious opposition. During the evening of 5 September, the whole of the line reached the Peronne to Cambrai road, but an attempt to make further advances were met with determined opposition from the enemy, an additional contributory factor during the attacks carried out in the evening, was the torrential which worked in favour of the Germans defending their positions. The following day the weather cleared, and the advance continued at a rapid pace, so fast in fact that Harold's battalion the Division on its left, the battalion passed through Templeux la Fosse, and reached Longavesnes which is approximately 13 miles northwest of Saint Quentin. After arriving at the village of Longavesnes, the battalion took up an outpost line just beyond the village. During the rapid advance of in excess of 8,000 yards, that was carried out by 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and the rest of the 230th Brigade on 6 September 1918, Harold's battalion only suffered 3 casualties, with Harold being of their number. Although it has not been possible to ascertain how Harold was killed in action during the

above advance, but there is every indication that he and the other 2 casualties were killed by enemy shelling, possibly simultaneously. On 18 September 1918 another Brenchley commemorated casualty, 37 year old Captain Hugh Lionel Allfrey of the Old Parsonage, was killed during an attack by the on the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), on the heavily defended Hindenburg Line.

**READER, HENRY HARRISON.** Private, 24562.  
1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.  
Died 16 August 1916.  
Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.  
Pier and Face 11 A and 11 D.

**ROFE, CHARLES HENRY.** Private, 18067.  
1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.  
Died 23 July 1917. Aged 27.  
Born and resided Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Goudhurst, Kent.  
Son of Edmund Rofe of "Walnut Tree," Brenchley, Kent.  
Buried Canada Farm Cemetery, Elverdinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: I. F. 17.  
At the time of the 1901 census the family resided at the above address. Head of the house was 34 year old Staplehurst, Kent native Edmund Rofe who was a Butcher. Edmund's wife was 38 year old Broom, Norfolk native Ellen Amelia Rofe (nee Bassett) who was Charles's mother.

**SCOTT, ROBERT EDWARD LESLIE.** M.C. and Bar. Lieutenant.  
129th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Died 13 September 1918. Aged 21.  
Born Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent 7 January 1897.  
Son of Edward Lucas Montgomery Scott and Emily Letitia Scott (née Ashe) of "Cryals," Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent.  
Buried Lebucquiere Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: IV. C. 28.  
At the time of the 1901 census, the Scott family resided at Hawkwell Farm, Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 38 year old Edward Lucas Montgomery Scott who was born in India. Edward was a Farmer and an employer. Robert was educated as a Day Boy at Tonbridge School, Kent, from September 1911 to July 1915, at which time he was a House Praepostor, and had been in the Engineering Sixth since May 1915. It was originally Robert's intention to go up to Cambridge on the completion of his education at Tonbridge School, and take up a Temporary Commission in the army, but a month after leaving school, he made the decision to try and get a place at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. After working really hard for a month with the assistance of a Mr. Gilbert, Robert passed in 40th place, which was a very creditable

performance without special preparation for the examination. A keen and able equestrian, Robert was in the Saddle Club during his time spent at Woolwich, and had represented his Company in the Gymnasium. On 26 May 1916, Robert was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery, and was posted to serve with the 129th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery in France in July 1916. After joining his battery in France, Robert took part in the fighting at Vimy, and that to the north of Arras in 1917. Details of the award of the Military Cross to Robert was published in the London Gazette dated 17 July 1917, the citation reads:-“He ranged his Battery on a hostile Battery with great success, after being under shellfire in his observation station, which was hit. His work has been consistently good.” Whilst it had not been Robert’s original intention to become a soldier, his efficiency and value as a born leader was quickly noted by his superiors, and he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 26 November 1917. Despite the comparative safety that it would have afforded him, Robert was unwilling to accept more than one offer of staff work, preferring to stay at the front with his men and his guns. A few days after the German Spring Offensive had commenced on 21 March 1918, the 129th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery was moved south, as part of the Allied efforts to stem the enemy advances. In August 1918, when the Allies fortunes changed as the enemy forces were pushed back, Robert’s battery pushed forward approximately thirty miles, passing through the war ravaged town of Bapaume, to Havringcourt. During the advance, Robert again displayed gallantry which resulted in the award of a Bar to his Military Cross, the citation for which reads:-“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while enemy aircraft were bombing his Battery position. Several bombs fell close to the guns, and five boxes of cartridges and some camouflage were set on fire. He at once rushed to the scene, and with the assistance of a N.C.O. succeeded in putting out the fire. His courage and promptitude averted a much more serious disaster.” At the time of the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, Lebusquiere Communal Cemetery Extension where Robert is at rest, contained 150 burials, but it was then greatly enlarged when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields. The extension now contains 774 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the Great War. Robert’s grave was amongst those brought in to Lebusquiere, as he had been first laid to rest at Bertincourt, after he was killed instantly by an enemy shell at Havringcourt Wood near Bapaume, Pas-de-Calais, France. Robert’s original grave marker at Bertincourt, which was in the form of a cross, bore the simple inscription:-“He was loved by all the Battery.” The genuine esteem in which Robert was held was clearly demonstrated by the exceptionally large number of officers and other ranks, who attended his original funeral at Bertincourt, which had included officers and detachments from all of the batteries of the brigade. His Captain later wrote of Robert, “He was without a doubt the keenest officer in the whole Brigade.” Robert’s family received a lot of letters of condolence, including that from his Battery Commander, which contained the following, “Liked by all for his many personal attractions, and very much respected for his fine abilities, most courageous under all circumstances, he was one of a type very seldom met with. It would indeed be a vain endeavour to



replace him, and his going cannot be filled. His name will never be forgotten, and his deed bear glorious testimony to his fine character." A fellow officer serving in the 129th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery wrote, "One of the first things we noticed about him was the unflagging energy, the ever ready desire to be doing something useful, to take on any job that had to be carried out. 'Efficiency' was seemingly his motto. His nature did not seem to feel the need of leisure moments, and he was happier working. As Observation Officer he did a great deal of good work, and it was during the Battle of Vimy that he won the Military Cross. He told us nothing about it, but the telephonists who were with him gave us some little idea of what he went through during some thirty six hours with the Infantry. He was forcibly restrained from going out alone after a group of German snipers on Hill 145, who had killed many of our men. Later in the same battle he approached so close with his telephone to a German battery that he admitted that he saw the guns recoil in the pits. His direction of fire enabled us to silence the hostile battery, which was doing great harm against our Infantry out in the open. On the Pilkem Ridge several times he risked his own life, putting out burning ammunition, and thought nothing of it at all." The Adjutant of Robert's Brigade wrote the following in his letter of condolence, "He did not seem to ever know the meaning of fear. He was a splendid chap, and when his battery joined us last year in Belgium, one of the first things I heard about him was that he was 'the sort of person who would walk through a barrage for fun.' His commanding officer often told me he considered he was one of the best artillery officers in France, and on the day of his funeral the Major of another Battery said to me "I think he was about the most conscientious chap I ever met." Certainly I never saw any one keener on his job. He was an extraordinarily efficient section officer, and where his O.P. party in particular was concerned he inspired his men with the same devotion to duty and disregard of danger that he showed himself. No one could help being struck by his personality; he was a first rate officer and a gallant gentleman." Glowing and doubtless sincere that the condolence letters from the above officers and many others were, the following brief extract from a letter written to Robert's parents by one of his Gunners, was probably the most heartfelt of all of them, "He was always cool and collected, and I am sure he never knew what fear was; he was loved by every one in the Battery. Most men looked to him for everything."

**WAGHORN T. E.**

**WAGHORNE, THOMAS ERNEST.** Private, G/11443.

8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 15 June 1917. Aged 22.

Born Marden, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Finchurst, Goudhurst, Kent.

Son of George and Harriett E. Waghorne of Goudhurst, Kent.

Husband of Lily Waghorne (née Brooks) of Temple Cottages, Castle Hill, Brenchley, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 14 as shown above, but with his surname erroneously spelt WAGHORN. Thomas is

also commemorated on the Goudhurst, Kent, civic war memorial, with the correct spelling of his surname.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Waghorne family resided at Riseden Road, Kilndown, Goudhurst, Kent. Head of the house was 41 year old Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent native George Waghorne, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. In June 1917 during the 'Battle of Messines,' Thomas's battalion took over frontline trenches near a position named "The Bluff," which was close to Hill 60 near Hollebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Whilst ensconced in the new position, an attack involving the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was arranged to be carried out on 14 June. The battalion was given the objective of capturing high ground to the east of "The Bluff," this high ground is in fact soil which was heaped there when the Ypres-Comines Canal was cut. It appears on trench maps (The Bluff/Hill 60 Sector) as merely Spoil Bank, it being just down from Triangular Dump, Battle Wood, where Thomas's battalion had relieved the 18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles), and the 3rd Battalion, Rifle Brigade. With zero hour set for 1930 hours, it was planned that the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) would take one side of the railway line, and soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) would take the opposite side. Prior to the commencement of the attack, a certain amount of sniping took place as the two assaulting battalions moved forward to their assembly positions, but fortunately and somewhat surprisingly there was no intervention by German artillery at that time. "A" and "C" Companies of Thomas's battalion led the advance behind an artillery barrage, the range of which was altered by a hundred yards exactly after every four minutes. Six minutes after the first British artillery had commenced firing, their opposite number accurately shelled the assembly positions, but fortunately to no avail, as thankfully by that time the area had been cleared of the assaulting troops. Nine men of Thomas's battalion fell on 14 June during the attack, and amongst the officer casualties was the Artist, Ernest Carlos, who was serving as a Second Lieutenant in the battalion. On the day that Thomas was killed in action, another thirteen other ranks also died, with another four on 16 June when being relieved at night, by the 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment. In remembrance of The Buffs fallen, later trench maps and various other official documentation when making reference or showing the position where Thomas and so many of his comrades died or were wounded, the location is called 'Buffs Bank.' The fact of which we have drawn attention to in the past on this website, as in view of the number of regimental memorials and similar which populate the entire length of the former Great War Western Front battlefields, combined with the proliferation of interest over the last few years, and the 'benefits'? generated by the tourist spin off, perhaps a memorial to those who fell at 'Buffs Bank' would not now be inappropriate.

**WEST, SAMUEL MARTIN.** Private, 1428.

11th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 25 July 1916.

Born Ticehurst, Sussex. Enlisted Albany, Western Australia.

Son of John West of Petlands Farm, Horsmonden, Kent, and the late Harriet West.

Brother of Eric C. West of Council Cottage, Pettridge, Matfield, Kent.

Commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France, and on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 61.

Samuel was educated at Ticehurst School, Sussex. At the time of the 1901 census, the West family resided at Maypole Lane, Goudhurst, Kent. Head of the house was 52 year old Etchingham, Sussex native John West, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. The then 18 year old Samuel was also recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as an Agricultural Labourer. At the age of 21 Samuel emigrated to Australia, and arrived at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on board the 12,531 ton White Star Line liner, S.S. Suevic, on 25 June 1903. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force at Albany, Western Australia on 18 October 1914, at which time he stated that he was 31 years and 10 months old, and that he was employed as a Farm Labourer. Following his basic army training, Samuel embarked from the port of Fremantle, Western Australia on 22 February 1915, onboard the 5,340 ton British India Steam Navigation Co Ltd (London) requisition vessel, H.M.A.T. Itonus (A50). Prior to serving on the Western Front, Samuel had served at Gallipoli from 7 May 1915. On 20 July 1915, Samuel was taken to hospital, and the following day he was admitted to the No.2 Australian General Hospital at Lemnos suffering with Influenza. He was later transferred to the No.1 Australian General Hospital, from where he was 'Discharged to duty' on 6 August 1915, and rejoined his battalion the following day. Whilst still serving on the Gallipoli Peninsular, Samuel was hospitalized at the 25th Casualty Clearing Station at Imbros, suffering with Dysentery, from where he was transferred to Base on 16 September 1915. Only two days after being discharged from the 25th Casualty Clearing Station at Imbros, Samuel was treated at the No.1 Australian General Hospital at Lemnos, again suffering with Dysentery. The day after being treated at the hospital, Samuel sailed for England onboard the transport ship H.M.T. "Northlands." It would appear to be the case that Samuel was admitted to hospital soon after arriving in England, as on 2 October 1915, he was admitted as a patient at the 2nd Southern General Hospital at Bristol, still suffering with Dysentery. On the successful completion of his treatment at Bristol, Samuel joined the No. 17 Draft at Weymouth to reinforce the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force in Egypt. On 14 February 1916, he was taken on strength at Ghezireh, Egypt, from where he was 'Discharged to rejoin his unit on 5 March 1916, which he joined at Serapeum the following day. On 29 March 1916, the 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. embarked on the transport ship H.M.T. "Corsican" at Alexandra, Egypt to join the British Expeditionary Force in France, and arrived at the French port of Marseilles on 5 April 1916. Australian data checked, showed that Samuel was killed in action at the village of Pozières, during the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' and that Chaplain W.E. Dexter officiated at his burial.



**WINCHCOMBE**, ALBERT EDWARD. Serjeant, SE/12854.

21st Veterinary Hospital, Army Veterinary Corps.

Died 23 November 1918. Aged 39.

Son of the late James and Annie Winchcombe of Brookside, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Buried Ari Burnu Cemetery, Anzac, Turkey. Grave Ref: G. 15.

Albert was posted to the Asiatic war theatre on 11 December 1915. Prior to his death Albert was Mentioned in Despatches.

**YOUNG**, PERCY STEPHEN. Private, 206153.

23rd (Service) Battalion, (2nd Football), Middlesex Regiment.

Died 1 October 1918. Aged 28.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Brenchley, Kent.

Son of William and Susan Young (née Russell) of Crystals Farm, Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Buried Zandvoorde British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. H. 1.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Young family resided at 5, Bournes Cottages, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 53 year old Brenchley native William Young, who was employed as a Road Foreman by the Road Board. Percy enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' on 11 December 1915, and was placed on the reserve the following day. On 16 April 1917 he was mobilized, at which time Percy stated that he was 26 years and 5 days old, employed as a Stockman, and residing at Corsica Villas, Brenchley Road, Brenchley, Kent, and named his father of the same address as being his next of kin. On the completion of his basic army training, Percy originally served as a member of the 3/10th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, from 3 July 1917 at which time he was posted to France, and sailed from Folkestone to Boulogne-sur-Mer. The day after his posting to France, Percy arrived at the 41 Infantry Base Depot at Etaples, Pas de Calais. On 23 July 1917, Percy was posted to the 23rd (Service) Battalion, (2nd Football), Middlesex Regiment, and joined the battalion in the field on 20 July 1917. Having served in his battalion on the Western Front for over a year, Percy was granted a period of leave to the United Kingdom from 30 August 1918 to 13 September 1918. Doubtless during his time spent on leave, Percy would have seen his parents and his ten siblings. After being wounded in the groin, Percy was initially treated at the 105 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, and afterwards at the 106 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, where he succumbed to his wounds on 1 October 1918. Zantvoorde (now Zandvoorde) British Cemetery where Percy is at rest, was made after the Armistice when remains were brought in from the battlefields and nearby German cemeteries. Percy's remains were moved to Zandvoorde in 1922, following which his parents were informed of same.

# The Great War

1914 -1919

## Lost Men

**ACOTT, ARCHIE.** Private, G/16453.

10th (Service) Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County).

Died 23 March 1918. Aged 24.

Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent. Resided Wrotham, Kent.

Youngest son of George and the late Fanny Turner Acott (née Pearson) of 11, West Street, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7, and on the Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.

Archie was one of three brothers who served in the armed forces during the Great War. At the time of the 1901 census the Acott family resided at Market Heath, Brenchley, Kent. Head of the house was 53 year old Horsmonden, Kent native, George Acott, who was employed as a Garden Labourer. Archie enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' on 18 February 1916, at which time he stated that he was 21 years and 4 months old, and that he was an unmarried Gardener residing with his father at Godden Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. He was initially mobilized on 18 March 1916, but was then reposted to the reserve for Garrison Service. On 10 July 1916 Archie was remobilised, at which time his home address was at 11, West Street, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent. The day after being remobilised, Archie was posted to the 11th (Service) Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Lewisham). On 1 September 1916, Archie was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of his regiment, and was posted to France for service in the British Expeditionary Force. He was posted to serve in the 10th (Service) Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County), on 5 December 1916, and then remained in the battalion until he was killed in action. Following his death, Archie was initially posted as 'Missing,' but later for official purposes the Army Council decided that he had died on or after 23 March 1918. Archie's late mother Fanny Turner Acott; died of Heart Failure at 11, West Street, Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent, on 1 June 1917 aged 68.

**BOURNE, ALFRED.** Sapper, 534737.

491st Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 18 July 1917. Aged 33.

Born and resided Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Son of Selah Bourne (née Lettham) of 128, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent, and of the late Frederick Bourne.

Husband of Emily Charlotte Bourne (née Hayward) of Market Heath, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 1, and in the Great War Book of Remembrance, at the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Tonbridge, Kent.

Alfred was born at Tonbridge, Kent 27 June 1884. At the time of the 1901 census, the Bourne family resided at 128, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 59 year old Boughton Monchelsea, Kent native Selah Bourne, who was a widow and worked from home as Laundress. The then 16 year old Alfred was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Grocers Porter. In view of his age at the time of the census, it would appear that Alfred, who was educated at the Slade Council School, Tonbridge, Kent, must have managed to be apprenticed as a Carpenter soon after the time of the census. He married Miss Emily Charlotte Hayward at the parish church of St. Stephen, Tonbridge, Kent on 20 April 1912. On 28 May 1914, Alfred's wife gave birth to their son Frederick Haywood Bourne at Tonbridge, Kent. Having passed an army medical examination at Hastings, Sussex, earlier in the day, Alfred enlisted at St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, in the Territorial Force for 'The Duration of the War' on 28 July 1915, at which time he stated that he was 31 years and 1 month old, and that he resided at 4, Lodge Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Following his enlistment, he initially served as Sapper, 2133, in the 3/2nd (Home Counties) Field Company, Royal Engineers, and was given a Trade Test on behalf of the army, by Mr. P. Barker who was a Builder of 39, St. Thomas's Road, Hastings, Sussex. Mr. Barker in his report to the army, stated that he had assessed Alfred's skills as a Carpenter, as being 'Very Good.' Alfred was later posted to serve in the 1/2nd (Home Counties) Field Company, Royal Engineers on 23 July 1916, at which time he was also posted to France for service in the British Expeditionary Force. Although it is known that on the day that he lost his life, Alfred volunteered with five other men to bomb a German dugout, and that only two of them had returned back to the British lines, he being one of the four men killed but initially Alfred was officially posted as 'Missing.' It was not until 21 February 1918, that the War Officer issued a letter on behalf of the Army Council, which stated that 'For Official Purposes,' it was to be assumed that Alfred had died on or since 18 July 1917. The War Office letter was issued as the result of having been informed of Alfred's death by the German Military Authorities. At the age of 55, Alfred's late father; Frederick Bourne who was a native of Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, died at Tonbridge, Kent in 1897.

**BROMLEY, FRANK WILLIAM.** Gunner, 180663.

"B" Battery, 245th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 12 March 1918. Aged 19.

Born Brenchley, Kent. Enlisted Gravesend, Kent.

Son of William Charles and Martha Bromley (née Gardener) of Chalk Pit Cottages, Shorne, Gravesend, Kent.

Buried Belgian Battery Corner Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. J. 6.

Commemorated on the Shorne, Gravesend, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Bromley family resided at Coachmans House, Frinsbury, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Brenchley, Kent native William Charles Bromley, who was employed as a Domestic Gardener.



**DUMBRELL, JOHN.** Private, 228102.

1st (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), attached to the 10th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

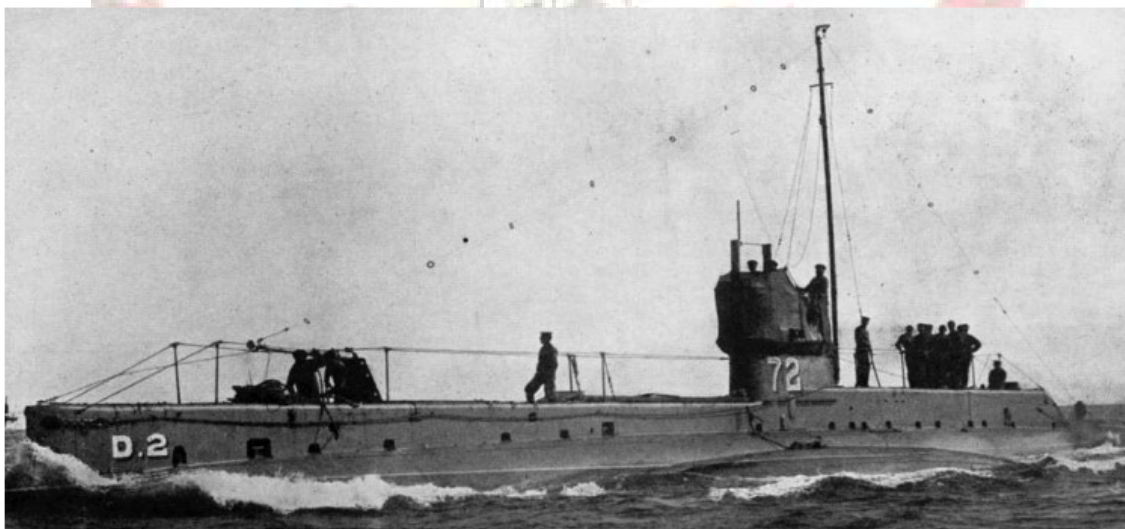
Died 5 October 1917. Aged 20.

Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Nettlestead, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Mr. A. J. and Mrs. E. Dumbrell of 1, Pixot Hill, Brenchley, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 148.

Formerly Private, 3418, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and Private, 205452, 24th County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (The Queen's).



**KILBURN, CHARLIE EDWARDS.** Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class, M/848.

Royal Navy, H.M. Submarine D2. (72).

Died 1 December 1914. Aged 29.

Born Brenchley, Kent.

Son of John and Eliza Jane Kilburn (née Edwards) of Brenchley, Kent.

Husband of Elizabeth Kilburn of 4, Avenue Road, The Avenue, Southampton, Hampshire.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 3.

Charlie enlisted in the Royal Navy at Portsmouth, Hampshire for 12 years, on 22 February 1909. When he enlisted in the Royal Navy, Charlie stated that he was born at Brenchley, Kent on 14 July 1885, and that he was employed as a Fitter & Turner. Initially Charlie was posted to H.M.S. Victory II, which was the administrative and accommodation depot for Engine Room Artificers and Stokers, and was located in H.M. Naval base at Portsmouth before 1914. During the Great War years H.M.S. Victory II was situated at Crystal Palace, London, and returned to Portsmouth in 1919. Charlie remained at H.M.S. Victory II until the completion of his Engine Room Artificer training, and was passed out as an Engine Room Artificer 4th Class. On 19 May 1909 he was posted to serve on his first ship, the 14,900 ton Majestic class pre dreadnought H.M.S. Illustrious. On 22 March 1909, H.M.S. Illustrious had collided with third-class cruiser H.M.S.

Amethyst in Portsmouth Harbour, but fortunately she suffered no damage. Unfortunately whilst Charlie was member of her crew, H.M.S. Illustrious suffered another mishap on 21 August 1909, when she damaged her keel by striking a reef in Babbacombe Bay which is a wide (but shallow), north-south indentation on the south coast of Devon near Torquay. Following his time spent on H.M.S. Illustrious, Charlie then joined the 19,488 ton battleship St. Vincent as a member of her original crew on the day that she was commissioned on 3 May 1910, as the 2nd Flagship of the 1st Division Home Fleet at Portsmouth, which was commanded by Captain Douglas R. L. Nicholson, R.N. It would seem likely that Charlie's leanings to service as a submariner were fuelled by his period of service between 22 May 1911 and 30 June 1911, whilst he was serving on the elderly (1878) H.M.S. Mercury, which was in use as a Submarine Depot Ship from 1906 to 1913, which is when he commenced his submarine training. He then served on a submarine attached to the Submarine Depot Ship H.M.S. Arrogant from 1 July 1911 to 19 September 1911; she had only become a Submarine Depot Ship the month prior to Charlie joining her attached submarine. H.M.S. Arrogant was an old medium cruiser that had been converted to be a Submarine Depot Ship at Dover, Kent, and became the Base Flagship for the Dover Patrol. From 20 September 1911 to 14 October 1912, Charlie served on a submarine attached to H.M.S. Bonaventure, which was an Astraea class cruiser launched in 1892, and which was in use as a Submarine Depot Ship from 1910, and was then broken up in 1920. During his time serving attached to H.M.S. Bonaventure, Charlie was upgraded to an Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class, on 25 February 1912. Charlie then served as a submariner, on submarines which were serviced by H.M.S. Maidstone and H.M.S. Dolphin. From the time of his very first Character Assessment which was entered on his record on New Years Eve 1909, until his last entry, Charlie's character was always assessed as "Very Good." As has also found to have been the same unfortunate situation noted whilst researching many other British submariners' war deaths for inclusion on this website, Charlie's death clearly falls into the category of an estimated date of death. H.M. Submarine D2 was built by Vickers, Sons & Maxim Ltd. of Barrow-in-Furness. She was Laid down on 10 July 1909, launched on 25 May 1910, and commissioned on 29 March 1911. Charlie's submarine sailed from Harwich, Essex on Tuesday 24 November 1914, and that was the last occasion that there is definite and irrefutable data on her. She is thought to have been sunk by a German torpedo boat on or about Wednesday 25 November 1914, in the North Sea near Borkum Island, Germany. Unlike many other Great war submarine wrecks which have been found with the passage of time, the D2 has never been positively located. The loss of the D2 resulted in the deaths of all of her 26 officers and ratings. Tragedy had struck Charlie's submarine only the before she had left on her last patrol; as on Monday 23 November, the commander of the submarine; 31 year old Lieutenant-Commander Arthur George Jameson R.N. of Exeter was washed overboard and drowned off the coast of Harwich. At the time of her loss, the D2 was commanded by 29 year old Lieutenant-Commander, Clement Gordon Wakefield Head, R.N. of Seaford, Sussex, who is commemorated on the Seaford, Sussex civic war memorial.

**LAMB, JOHN.** Second Lieutenant.

179th Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 17 October 1917. Aged 37.

Born Thorpe, Norwich, Norfolk 21 September 1880.

Son of the late Reverend John Lamb M.A. (Bursar of Caius College, Cambridge), and of Emily Hansell (formerly Lamb), (née Borton).

Husband of Muriel Lamb (née Wrey) of Tawsden, Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent. Formerly of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.

Buried Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: X. G. 7.

John was educated at Rugby School. He went to Rhodesia in 1902, where he settled and became a Mining Engineer. On 14 August 1914, he married Miss Muriel Wrey at St. John's Church, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. Muriel was the daughter of Sir Bouchier Wrey of Tawstock Court, Barnstable, Devon. John returned to England in January 1917 in order to enlist for military service. Having been gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, John was posted to France on 13 February 1917. On 17 October 1917, John was wounded near Ypres and was evacuated to one of the three Casualty Clearing Stations at Dozinghem near Poperinghe, where he succumbed to his wounds later the same day. Following his death, John's Commanding Officer wrote a letter of condolence to his wife Muriel, part of which says "He had not been with us very long, but already he was beloved by us all, besides being extremely popular with his men. He always did his duty, and at all times displayed great coolness and thorough disregard for his personal safety; above all, he "kept smiling," which, believe me, is a great thing in this war. No matter how bad things might be, he was always "cheerful and willing." He was a fine fellow-so plucky-so brave-and a thorough sportsman. At the time of applying for her late husbands medals, Muriel Lamb was residing at "Crossways," Mayfield, Sussex.

**TURNER, SIDNEY.** Serjeant, 540570.

497th (Kent) Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 10 July 1917. Aged 41.

Born Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted and resided Southborough, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Husband of Mrs. Gaston (formerly Turner) of Half Way House, Brenchley, Kent.

Buried Bard Cottage Cemetery, Boezinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. A. 18.

Formerly Sapper, T/1327, 1/3rd Kent Fortress Company, Royal Engineers. Sidney enlisted in the Territorial Force for 4 years on 15 October 1914. At the time of his enlistment, Sidney resided with his wife at 12, Taylor Street, resided Southborough, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. He stated that he was 33 years and 11 months old, and that he was employed as a Carpenter. In response to the question appertaining to previous military service, Sidney replied that he had previously served in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) Volunteers, which would be indicative of having served prior to 1 April 1908, when the



Volunteer Force had been replaced with the Territorial Force. The Attesting Officer who signed Sidney's papers was Lieutenant (later Captain) David 'Reggie' Solomans, who later perished in the H.M.S. Hythe disaster on 8 October 1915. On 19 December 1914, Sidney was promoted to Acting Corporal, and to a Corporal on 7 March 1915. Sidney was promoted to an Acting Sergeant on 10 September 1915, and retained his rank when he was transferred to the 497th (Kent) Field Company, Royal Engineers on 2 May 1917.

## Post Great War

**TERRY, C.E.** Lieutenant-Colonel.  
Yorkshire Regiment.  
Died 11 February 1920.  
Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.  
Grave Ref: South boundary, left of gate.

## The Second World War

1939 – 1945

**NOEL BISHOP.** The best match for this casualty who is commemorated on the Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial, appears to be the following airman.

**BISHOP, NOEL EDWIN.** Pilot Officer, 65578.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 72 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Saturday 8 November 1941.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 31.

Formerly 1251036, Noel was promoted to a Pilot Officer on 4 May 1941. Surplus to peacetime requirements after the Great War, 72 Squadron, Royal Air Force was disbanded on 22 September 1919. The squadron reformed on 22 February 1937, at R.A.F. Tangmere, Chichester, Sussex from a nucleus provided by No 1 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Again it was as a fighter unit, its initial equipment being Gloucester Gladiators, and on 1 June 1937 the squadron moved north to R.A.F. Church Fenton, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. Supermarine Spitfires arrived in April 1939, but the squadron remained in the north until June 1940 when it moved to R.A.F. Gravesend, Kent, to assist in covering the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force, and French servicemen from Dunkirk. The operated throughout the Battle of Britain as part of the Biggin Hill, Kent, sector moving to R.A.F. Coltishall, Norfolk and then R.A.F. Leuchars, Fife, Scotland in November. It rejoined the Biggin Hill sector in July 1941, where it undertook offensive sweeps over Northern France, remaining there until August 1942, when it was withdraw for service overseas.

**BLACKFORD, HARRY WILLIAM.** B.Sc. Pilot Officer, 121555.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died Friday 26 June 1942. Aged 27.

Son of David Blackford and of Bessie H. Blackford (née Vidler) of Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 68.

**BOARER, THOMAS GEORGE.** Private, 6344680.

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Died Friday 12 May 1944.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Emma Coulridge of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Prague War Cemetery, Czech Republic. Grave Ref: I. A. 5.

Pre war member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. As can be seen from the accompanying photographs, Private Boarer is commemorated on the Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial with his first Christian name shown as TOM, it probably being the name by which he was known and remembered. Prague War Cemetery was constructed by the Czechoslovak Government, to plans provided by the (then) Imperial War Graves Commission, under the terms of the War Graves Agreement of 3 March 1949. It contains 256 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 34 of which are unidentified. The graves were brought into the cemetery from 73 small cemeteries scattered all over the Czech Republic. Many of those at rest in the cemetery died whilst Prisoners of War.

**BOYER, NORMAN.** Major, 38511.

Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Died Monday 10 November 1941. Aged 34.

Born Argentina. Resided Kent.

Son of Louis and Olga Boyer.

Husband of Phoebe W. Boyer of Little Puxted, Brenchley, Kent.

Commemorated on the Khartoum Memorial, Sudan. Panel 1.

Pre war member of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

The Memorial Khartoum commemorates nearly 600 soldiers who died during the East African campaign of 1940-1941 who died in the Sudan or in the advance into Eritrea and Northern Ethiopia, and who have no known grave. Norman was the winner of the King's Medal at Bisley, Surrey in 1934. From 1869 until 1998, the Queen's or King's Medal was the reigning Sovereign's premier award for shooting, awarded every year to the Champion Shot of the Navy, Army and R.A.F. at Bisley, Surrey. It was also awarded to a few of the members of the Commonwealth countries.



**GILES, REGINALD HERBERT.** Sergeant, 1397162.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 6223 Bomb Disposal Flight, Royal Air Force.  
Died Tuesday 30 October 1945.

Buried Tilburg (Gilzerbaan) General Cemetery, Netherlands.

Grave Ref: Plot B. Row 1. Grave 30.

Reginald was amongst the three members of his unit who died as the result of an explosion, during the final clearance of munitions which was being carried out at the former Luftwaffe base at Welschap near Eindhoven, Netherlands on Monday 29 October 1945. The ordnance which was being cleared was a variety of different things that had included a number of 250 Kilogram high explosive bombs, butterfly bombs, hand grenades, Panzerfaust Anti-Tank launchers, and a variety of different calibre ammunition. Sergeant Kenneth Thomas Wylie who drove the first lorry was killed by the explosion. Reginald who had driven the second lorry was badly injured as the team had stood around an earlier crater, which was being put to use for the detonation of the recovered German ordnance. Those who were injured, including Reginald were initially taken to St. Joseph's Hospital at Eindhoven, they were later transferred to the British Field Hospital at Tilburg. Reginald died of his extensive injuries at Tilburg the following day, and fellow Sergeant Denis Henry Comer, lost his fight for life on 4 November 1945. The three Sergeants who died are at rest in adjacent graves at Tilburg (Gilzerbaan) General Cemetery, in graves 30, 31, and 32. Although Reginald's birth certificate has not been sighted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, a possible match was found for him as follows. The birth of a Reginald H. Giles was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1923. If the birth is that of the above Brenchley commemorated casualty, it would mean that Reginald would have been 22 years old at the time of his tragic demise.

**GRAVES, LESLIE PETER.** Gunner, 983057.

Royal Artillery and No.1 Commando.

Died Monday 22 January 1945. Aged 25.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of William and Florence Gertrude Graves (née Bates) of Brenchley, Kent.

Buried Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave Ref: 3. E. 1.



Leslie's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1920.

**GEORGE, HILL.** Due primarily to the scarcity of additional data sources etcetera, which are available to help positively identify the casualties who died in or resultant of the Second World War, when compared to those of the Great War, it has not been possible to ascertain the true identity of the correct man on this occasion. In view of the aforementioned, the following casualty should be viewed with caution by any interested parties re accuracy, it being only a 'best guess'!

**HILL, GEORGE.** Guardsman, 6283699.

1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died Sunday 3 September 1944. Aged 35.

Born and resided Kent.

Buried Lille Southern Cemetery, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: Plot 5. Row B. Grave 18.

Pre war member of the Grenadier Guards who had originally served in The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).



**HOOK, GORDON GEORGE.** Able Seaman, C/SSX 22269.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Veteran. (D72).

Died Saturday 26 September 1942. Aged 22.

Born Kent.

Son of Thomas Hook and Edith Emily Hook (née Nicholls) of Petteridge, Brenchley, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 54, Column 2, as shown above.

H.M.S. Veteran was a 1188 ton Admiralty V & W class destroyer, and was built by John Brown Shipbuilding & Engineering Company Ltd. of Clydebank, Scotland. She was laid down on 30 August 1918, launched on 26 August 1919, and commission on 13 November 1919. At the time of her loss, when she was sunk by German U-Boat, U-404 whilst escorting the Convoy RB-1 George's ship was commanded by 31 year old Lieutenant-Commander Trevor Henry Garwood, of North Berwick, East Lothian, Scotland. When she was torpedoed H.M.S. Veteran was rescuing survivors of the American passenger ship New York. She was lost with all hands, together with rescued survivors from the New York and another American passenger ship the Boston. Convoy RB-1 which was a single convoy of small passenger ships sailing from America to Great Britain, was attacked by three wolf packs numbering 17 German U-boats. At the time of the attack on George's ship, the U-404 was commanded by U-Boat "ace" Kapitänleutnant (later Korvettenkapitän) Otto von Bülow. Born at Wilhelmshaven, Germany on 16 October 1911, Otto von Bülow commanded the U-404 between 6 August 1941 and 19 July 1943, during which time the U-404 carried out 6 war patrols, and sunk a total of 15 ships and damaged 2 others, H.M.S. Veteran being the sole warship in Otto von Bülow tally. Aged 94, Otto von Bülow died in

Hamburg, Germany on 5 January 2006. Gordon's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1920.

**HUNT, SYDNEY ROBERT.** Flight Sergeant, 1334704.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 282 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Monday 21 December 1942. Aged 23.  
Son of Robert and Ethel May Hunt of Brenchley, Paddock Wood, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 219.

**LEWIS, RUSSELL GORDON.** Lance Serjeant, 2662006.  
2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards.  
Died Friday 18 February 1944. Aged 23.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Commemorated on the Cassino Memorial, Italy. Panel 3.  
When carrying the transcribing of the Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial for the first time a few years ago for inclusion on this website, the transcriber made the comment that "Russell is erroneously commemorated on the Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial with his Christian names inscribed in reverse order. " During the research process for this update, it was noted that the birth of a Russell G. Lewis, whose mothers' maiden name was Woodgate, was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1920. In view of same it would seem likely that how Lance Serjeant Lewis has been commemorated at Brenchley is in fact correct.

**KENNETH PARKER.** As commemorated on the Brenchley, Kent civic war memorial is probably the following local casualty.

**PARKER, KENNETH OLIVER.** Gunner, 873781.  
234 (Kent) Battery, 89 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, (Territorial Army).  
Died Tuesday 9 September 1941. Aged 20.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Oliver Parker and of Laura Sarah Parker of Matfield, Kent.  
Buried Belgrade War Cemetery, Uliga Baju Sekulica, Serbia. Grave Ref: 5. C. 3.  
Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

Unfortunately it has not been possible thus far, to find out why Kenneth has the above cemetery as his final resting place. From the commencement of the Second World War until August 1941, the 89 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery served in the United Kingdom. It was then posted to Egypt, and then continued to serve in North Africa until going to Italy in 1943 as part of the 8th Army. Purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, Kenneth might have been an escaped Prisoner of War from Italy, as a lot of the Allied servicemen who were captured by the Axis forces in North Africa, were initially transported and interned in Italy. The Belgrade War Cemetery where Kenneth is at rest is in Uliga Baju Sekulica, in the city's Fifth Region, and is on the edge of the New Yugoslav Cemetery (Novo Groblje). It was created to receive the remains of British and Commonwealth casualties

brought in from more than sixty small burial grounds and from isolated sites all over the former Yugoslavia. The largest number from any one place came from Milna Military Cemetery and the Royal Naval and Harbour Cemeteries on the island of Vis (Lissa) which was a Royal Navy base. The burials in the War Cemetery include escaped prisoners of war from Italy and Greece. Civilians buried here include a mining technician, a teacher of English, a newspaper correspondent, a member of the Embassy staff and the child of another member of Embassy staff. They were buried or re-buried in the cemetery by permission of the Army Graves Service.

## The Second World War

1939 – 1945

### Lost Men

**BUSS, JAMES.** Home Guard.  
Died Sunday 29 September 1940. Aged 46.  
Son of Mr. J. Buss of Market Heath, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent.  
Husband of K. Buss of 1 Skinners Cottages, Beltring, Paddock Wood, Kent.  
Commemorated on the East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent civic war memorial.  
James died at the First Aid Post which was located at the Wesleyan Chapel, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent.

**CARR, BONNA CHARLTON.** Serjeant, 102322.  
Pioneer Corps.  
Died 2 November 1947. Aged 39.  
Born Lanchester, County Durham.  
Son of John and Elizabeth Hannah Carr.  
Husband of Violet Beatrice Kate Carr (née Brooks) of Brenchley, Kent.  
Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.  
Grave Ref: Near South West corner of churchyard.  
Originally enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps.

**HUGHES, CECIL CHRISTEN.** B.A. (Oxon). Captain, 67418.  
Devonshire Regiment, attached to the 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.  
Died Friday 3 August 1945.  
Born Cheshire. Resided Devonshire.  
Son of Guy and Ragnhild Hughes.  
Husband of Marjorie B. Hughes of Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent.  
Buried Madras War Cemetery, Chennai, India. Grave Ref: 8. A. 11.  
Pre war officer on the General List.

**MANWARING, RANULPH PAUL.** Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1153158.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 57 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Thursday 11 December 1941.  
Born Cranbrook, Kent.



Son of Mrs. I. Manwaring.

Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.

Grave Ref: West of tower near West border.

Ranulph's birth was registered in the Cranbrook, Kent, Registration District during the last quarter of 1912, and as such he was probably 29 years old when he died.

**TAYLER, SKIPWITH EDWARD.** D.S.O. Lieutenant Colonel, AI/849.

3rd Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles.

Died Monday 17 March 1941. Aged 42.

Son of Henry Graham Tayler and Helen Dorothea Tayler.

Husband of Freda Fortescue Tayler (née Young) of Brenchley, Kent.

Buried Keren War Cemetery, Eritrea. Grave Ref: 1. C. 4.

Commemorated on the Lindfield, Haywards Heath, Sussex, civic war memorial.

On 15 May 1915, Skipwith's brother; 22 year old Second Lieutenant Jervoise Graham Tayler fell in France, whilst serving in the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. During the Great War, Skipwith had served as an officer in the 2nd Battalion, 39th Royal Garhwal Rifles, Indian Army. He was the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles at the time of his death. He was killed in action during an attack on Italian fortifications around Keren in Eritrea by his battalion. Initially it was proposed that a thrust be made over an area between Sanchil and Brigs Peak, but at a conference this plan was vetoed as suicidal, because the Italians were in great strength and held all the commanding ground. Instead, the 3/18th Royal Garhwal Rifles were to assault Sanchil, while the 4/10th Battalion, Baluch Regiment would attack up a location named Brigs Peak, at 2200 hours on 16 March 1941. The Baluch Regiment suffered 53 casualties when two mortar bombs landed among the waiting Pathan company, while Colonel Sundius-Smith was giving out his orders. This company was detailed to carry supplies, and the Dogra Company led the attack instead. The battalion moved off up Brigs Peak. A shell landed and Colonel Sundius-Smith thought his men had been spotted. Suddenly the Italians commenced firing; mortars were fired rapidly and little red bombs hurled down in profusion. Colonel Sundius-Smith tried his Punjabi Mussulman company farther to the left, which reached the barbed wire, only to be forced back down the slope. They were almost on the summit, but to remain there was beyond human possibility. At dawn Colonel Fletcher, who was temporarily commanding 10 Brigade, arrived and discussed the situation, and he decided that to send the Highland Light Infantry through the alleged gap would be hopeless. Nor could the Baluch stay where they were on the slopes of Sanchil. The 3rd Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles were no more successful. Two hundred yards from the top, the attacking companies encountered unusually fierce opposition. For more than half an hour the entire face of Sanchil appeared to be one sheet of flame. In addition to Skipwith being killed, every British officer on the slopes was wounded. At one period the battalion was commanded by a subaltern who had climbed up with a party of porters; then he too was wounded, and eventually the second-in-command of the battalion, Major S. K. Murray, arrived to take over.

**WIGNALL, WILLIAM ROBERT.** Driver, T/273814.  
257 Ambulance Car Company, Royal Army Service Corps.  
Died Sunday 26 March 1944. Aged 35.  
Born and resided East London.  
Husband of Elizabeth Maud Wignall of Brenchley, Kent.  
Buried Saint Andrews Old Churchyard, Paddock Wood, Kent.  
Grave Ref: Row Q. Grave 14.

## Post Second World War

**HOADLEY, OWEN HARRY.** Flying Officer, 3039511.  
222 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died Friday 25 July 1952. Aged 24.  
Born 21 February 1928.  
Son of Albert E. Hoadley and Annie E. Hoadley (née Somers).  
Buried All Saints Churchyard, Brenchley, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Armed Forces National Memorial, Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire, and in the Royal Air Force Roll of Honour, St. Clement Danes Church, Aldwych, London.  
Owen's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1928. Owen had carried out some of his R.A.F. training in South Africa, as he was amongst a draft of Royal Air Force aircrew personnel which arrived at Southampton on 25 September 1948, onboard the Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company Ltd ship "Durban Castle." The 17,388 ton ship had sailed from Durban, South Africa, via East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Madeira. The R.A.F. draft was en-route to R.A.F. Burtonwood, Warrington, Lancashire. At the time of Owen's death whilst flying a Gloucester Meteor F8 jet aircraft (No. WA882) during a low level exercise, his squadron was based at R.A.F. Leuchars, Fife, Scotland. On Friday 25 July 1952 there was a very thick sea mist, (known locally as a Harr), which had spread inland to cover the town of Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, to the south of Aberdeen. The whine of the Owen's flying Meteor jet was heard flying unseen above the streets of Stonehaven, and only a few seconds later it crashed into Bennachie which is the highest hill in eastern Aberdeenshire.