

# Aylesford



Our sincere thanks are due to **Clive Maer** for providing us with the above photograph of the Aylesford civic war memorial, and the other photographs which are shown at the end of the following commemorations of the parish of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent war dead. Transcriptions by Patrick D. Scullion.

# The Great War

1914 -1919

**ATKINS, GEORGE.** Private, M2/134509.

Army Service Corps, attached to the II Corps Heavy Artillery.

Died 14 July 1916. Aged 23.

Born Southborough, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Dewsbury, Yorkshire. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Mary Emma Atkins (née Butler) of the "Bush Inn," Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, and of the late George Atkins.

Buried Albert Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. T. 30.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Atkins family resided at Bentham Hill Stables, Stockland Green Road, Southborough, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Charing, Ashford, Kent, native George Atkins (senior), who was employed as a Domestic Coachman. George (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator as being an 8 year old native of Southborough, Kent. When George enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on 27 October 1915, at which time he named his mother as his next of kin, he stated that he was employed as a Commercial Traveler. Two days after his enlistment, George was posted to the Mechanical Transport Depot, Army Service Corps, Grove Park, Lee, London. SE, to commence his training, which had included a twelve week course for the maintenance of various motor vehicles, which ranged from staff cars to lorries and omnibuses. On 5 May 1916, George was posted to France, and sailed from the port of Avonmouth, Bristol, and arrived in France the following day, George then remained on the Western Front until he lost his life. George's death was officially reported by the Officer Commanding No. 406 Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps, as having been killed in action on Friday 14 July 1916. On 15 September 1916 George's mother was formally informed of his death. In view of its 'Kent' military Great War connections, mention should be made that in 1826, the 870 acreage Calverley Estate, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, was acquired by John Ward J.P., M.P. (1776-1855). John Ward commissioned Decimus Burton (1880-18810), "To erect a number of edifices suitable to the reception of genteel families, and simultaneously with the larger buildings, a number of shops, etcetera in their immediate neighbourhood, so that residents upon the estate might enjoy the same advantages as those who lived nearer the Springs." Bentham Hill House, and Bentham Hill Stables where the Atkins family resided, were amongst those 'edifices' designed by Decimus Burton, who amongst the plethora of his important designs was the Wellington or Constitution Arch, to form the main western entrance to St. James's Park and Green Park. The arch was designed as a memorial to the Duke of Wellington, and originally provided a grand entrance to London. Bentham Hill Stables is now a 4 star Bed and Breakfast accommodation, and is near to the former home of Captain David Salomons, 1st/3rd (Kent) Field Company, Royal Engineers, who perished on 28 October 1915 when H.M.S. Hythe was tragically lost.



**AVARDS, FREDERICK JOHN**, Rifleman, R/8472.

7th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 3 August 1916.

Born Lamberhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Lucy Avars.

Buried Aylesford, Kent (St. Peter) Churchyard. Grave Ref: Special Memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Avars family resided at the "Bockingford Arms," Loose Valley, Maidstone Kent, as pictured above. Head of the house was 34 year old Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, native Frederick Avars who was the Licensee of the establishment. Frederick (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator as being aged 9, and a native of Lamberhurst, Sussex. The cemetery where Frederick is at rest contains 17 war graves, of which eleven (from Preston Hall Military Hospital, where the British Legion village is now) are in a special plot. Frederick was posted to France on 19 May 1915, and he died at home of wounds he received in action whilst serving on the Western Front.

**BARNES, WILLIAM HENRY**. No clear trace at this time. Although he might not be the casualty commemorated on the Aylesford civic war memorial, whilst researching a former soldier was revealed who is not commemorated by the CWGC. Early basic indications point to ex Gunner, 3925, William Henry Barnes of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who was discharged on 18 April 1917 being "No longer fit for war service." William was awarded a Silver War Badge and Certificate, and discharged with a medical pension suffering from a Tubercular Lung, which was attributed to having been "Aggravated by Active Service." The 'Kent Fallen' team are carrying out more in-depth researches, in order to submit William's case to the CWGC for his official commemoration by the Commission.

**BROOMFIELD, ALBERT.** Private, G/1291.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 3 October 1916.

Born and resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of the late William and Eliza Broomfield, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Brother of Miss Susannah Broomfield, High Street, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

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

When Albert enlisted in the army on 1 September 1914 he stated that he was 32 years old, and employed as a General Labourer. Initially Albert was posted to the Regimental Depot of 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Canterbury, Kent, prior to being posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion of the regiment three days later. On 5 January 1915, Albert was transferred to serve in the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Albert was posted to France on 28 July 1915. After the Great War, Susannah Broomfield received the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal awarded to Albert.

**CAPON, GEORGE.** No clear trace at this time.

Please note that the next three casualties commemorated were brothers.

**CLARK, ARTHUR.** M.M. Private, T/203583.

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

Died 21 November 1917. Aged 24.

Born Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Kent.

Son of William and Louisa Clark of Forstal Farm, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Rocquigny-Equancourt British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: III. B. 22.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Clark family resided at Kiln Farm, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old Rye, Sussex native William Clark, who was employed as a Farm Stockman. Mrs. Louisa Clark was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 35 year old native of Norwich, Norfolk. Arthur was brother of the next two casualties briefly commemorated below.

**CLARK, FRANK HENRY.** Private, CH/494(S).

Chatham Battalion, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Died 7 June 1915. Aged 19.

Born Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent 4 October 1895.

Son of William and Louisa Clark of Forstal Farm, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 2.

The Clark family had formerly resided at Sevington, Ashford, Kent, at which time Frank was educated at the old Willesborough School, Ashford, Kent. Prior to the commencement of the Great War, Frank was employed by Mr. T Chapman of Sevington Court, Sevington, Ashford, Kent. Prior to his death, Frank had served in the Chatham Battalion, 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. Royal Marine Light Infantry, as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from 6 February 1915.

**CLARK, FREDERICK WALTER.** Serjeant, G/1289.

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

Died 3 July 1916. Aged 26.

Born Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William and Louisa Clark of Forstal Cottages, Forstal Farm, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

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

When Frederick enlisted in the army for a three year engagement on 1 September 1914, he stated that he was 24 years and 144 days old, and that he was employed as a Brickmaker. Prior to his death Frederick was received a number of promotions:- 14 October 1915, appointed a Lance Corporal (unpaid), 11 March 1916 Corporal, 4 April 1916 Acting Serjeant, and 12 June 1916 Serjeant. Frederick served in the United Kingdom from the time of his enlistment until 31 May 1915, and on the Western Front from 1 June 1916 until he was killed in action on 3 July 1916. Gunner Arthur Clark, who was one of the younger Clark brothers was still serving as a member of the Royal Garrison Artillery after the Great War, and was stationed at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

**COSTIN, WILLIAM GEORGE.** Private, 48397.

21st (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Died 26 April 1917.

Born Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Edward and Ellen Costin.

Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: XV. J. 16.

Formerly 179462, Royal Field Artillery.

Also commemorated on the Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial. William's mothers' maiden name was probably Long, and who like her husband was a native of Watringbury, Maidstone, Kent.

**DAMMS, CECIL ARTHUR.** D.C.M. Lance Corporal, L/7195.

4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London).

Died 26 October 1914. Aged 38.

Born Shouldham, Norfolk. Enlisted Tottenham, London. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of the late Edward and Mary Damms.

Husband of Florence Ethel Damms (née Waterman) of 2, Railway Cottages, Mill Hall, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Richebourg-l'Avoue, Pas-de-Calais, France. Panel 6.

At the time of the 1891 census, Cecil was an Inmate at the Union Workhouse, Downham, Norfolk. Cyril was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his gallantry at Onderbroek Hill, South Africa on 24 February 1900, whilst serving as a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London). As a regular soldier had Cecil served in France with the 4th Battalion from 13 August 1914.

**DANES, THOMAS.** Second Lieutenant.

R.S.O. (Ham, France), Royal Army Service Corps.

Died Wednesday 13 November 1918. Aged 40.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Ellen Danes of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Beatrice Frances Danes of The Pynes, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Bristol (Canford) Cemetery, Gloucestershire.

Grave Ref: Section V. Grave 4665.

Formerly Driver, J/331080, Army Service Corps.

Thomas is also commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of All Saints, Whitstable, Kent.

**EASTON, CHARLES NORMAN.** Private, 493530.

2nd/1st Home Counties Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died 21 April 1918. Aged 21.

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

Son of the late Charles David and Lydia Easton of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: P. VII. A. 4A.

At the time of the 1910 census the Easton family resided at the High Street, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Woodford, Essex native Charles David Easton, who was employed as a Drapers Assistant. Employed as a Carpenter as a civilian, when Charles enlisted in the army 'For the Duration of the War' on 8 March 1915, he said that he was aged 19 years and 7 months, and that his home address was "The Supply Store," Aylesford, Kent, which was the residence of his uncle Frederick John Easton. On 23 January 1917, Charles sailed from Southampton with the 2nd/1st Home Counties Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, and arrived at the French port of Harve the following day. Charles died of wounds received in action from a gas shell, whilst he was a patient at No. 6 General Hospital, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Shortly after the cessation of the hostilities of the Great War, the provision of the British War and Victory Medals in respect of Charles's active service was put on hold, until his brother Harold F. Easton who was his closest relative returned home, as at the time he was still serving in the army as Private, 44024, 10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment. On the 1901 census, Harold was recorded by the census enumerator as being aged 2, and a native of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

**FRANCIS, FREDERICK WILLIAM.** Private, 8023.

1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London).

Died 8 October 1916.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Emma Francis of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 8 C 9 A and 16 A.

Formerly Private, 4041, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

**GREEN, ERNEST.** Lance Corporal, 592968.

426th Agricultural Company, Labour Corps.

Died 20 December 1918. Aged 37.

Husband of Mrs. Emily Green (née Chapman) of 4, Park Road, Aylesford, Kent.

Buried Aylesford, Kent (St. Peter) Churchyard. Grave Ref: Row 36. Grave 13, and commemorated in the above on a Special Memorial. The cemetery where Ernest is at rest contains 17 war graves, of which eleven (from Preston Hall Military Hospital, where the British Legion village is now) are in a special plot.

Formerly Private, G/4890, 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and Private, 28252, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). When Ernest, who was employed as a Labourer, enlisted in the army on 3 December 1914, he stated that he was a married man with five children, and that he resided with them at 4, Park Road, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. On 3 April 1915, Ernest was discharged from the army whilst serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), due to "Being unlikely to become an efficient soldier." It was possibly a combination of Ernest's patriotic duty, and the desire to prove his former instructors of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) wrong, that Ernest later enlisted in the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). In April 1918 Ernest was serving in the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) at Grantham, Lincolnshire, but when he was admitted as a patient at the Military Hospital, Maidstone, Kent, on 11 September 1918 he had been transferred to the 426th Agricultural Company, Labour Corps. Ernest remained in hospital at Maidstone until 16 September 1918. Suffering with Influenza, Ernest was admitted as a patient at the Military Hospital, Canterbury, Kent, in December, and where he succumbed to the disease on 20 December 1918, during the time of the world-wide Influenza pandemic, which lasted from approximately July 1918 to April 1919, with a major peak in the United Kingdom between September 1918 and January 1919. Ultimately the pandemic of 'Spanish Flu' resulted in more fatalities than those which were attributable to military operations during the Great War years.

**GREEN, FREDERICK.** Private, G/1290.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 18 November 1916. Aged 35.

Born and resided Boxley, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of Jane Green of 33, Forstal, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

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

Frederick was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated.

**GREEN, SIDNEY JAMES.** Rifleman, 592830.

1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles).

Died 7 April 1917. Aged 33.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Enfield, Middlesex.

Son of Henry and Jane Green of 33, Forstal, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 54.

Formerly Private, G/21935, 14th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, and Private, 5442, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles).

**GRINHAM, JONATHAN ERNEST**, Gunner, 207576.

"B" Battery, 83rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 30 November 1917. Aged 37.

Born Erpingham, Norfolk. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Harry Grinham of Frant, Sussex.

Husband of Lily Grinham of Tangier Lodge Farm, Frant Forest, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: V. C. 29.

**HAWKINS, FRANK**. Private, M2/081433.

905th M.T. Company, Army Service Corps.

Died 4 May 1917.

Born Graywell, Odiham, Hampshire. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Alfred John Hawkins and Sarah Jane Hawkins (née Foot) of Charity Farm, Broad Street, Pilgrims Way, Hollingbourne, Maidstone, Kent.

Brother of Miss Winifred Hawkins of Warwick House, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Savona Memorial, Italy.

On 3 May 1917, the 14,348 ton SS Transylvania which was operated by the Anchor Line (Henderson Bros.), Ltd. of Glasgow, sailed from the French port of Marseille, with a full complement of reinforcement troops, proceeding to Salonika via Alexandria, Egypt, at which time she was escorted by the Japanese destroyers and Sakaki and Matsu. At 1000 hours on 4 May the SS Transylvania was struck in the port engine room by a torpedo fired by the German submarine U-63. At the time that the ship was hit she was approximately a mile and a half off the south of Cape Vado, in the Gulf of Genoa, Italy. The destroyer Matsu came alongside the SS Transylvania and began to take onboard troops, while the Sakaki circled in an attempt to force the submarine to remain submerged. About twenty minutes after the SS Transylvania had been hit, a second torpedo was fired at the Matsu, which was only saved by going astern at full speed. The torpedo which had been intended for the Matsu hit the loaded troopship SS Transylvania instead, which then sank immediately. Ten members of the ships crew, 29 army officers and 373 other ranks died when the Transylvania was lost. The bodies which were recovered at Savona were buried two days later, from the Hospital of San Paulo, and laid to rest in a special plot in the town cemetery. Others victims of the sinking are buried elsewhere in Italy, France, Monaco and Spain. At the time of the loss of the SS Transylvania, the German submarine U-63 was commanded by 32 year old Kapitänleutnant Otto Schultze, who celebrated his thirty-third birthday exactly a week after sinking the SS Transylvania. On 18 March 1918, Otto Schultze was awarded the Pour le Mérite for outstanding leadership, distinguished naval planning and successful submarine operations. He sank a total of 175,000 tons of allied shipping during the Great War, among them was the Royal Navy cruiser H.M.S. Falmouth, the troop transport SS Transylvania, and two other transport ships.

**HAWKINS, WILLIAM DOUGLAS.** Private, 5411.

15th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died 1 February 1917. Aged 23.

Born Graywell, Odiham, Hampshire. Enlisted Karri, North Queensland, Australia.  
Resided Atherton, Queensland, Australia.

Son of Alfred John Hawkins and Sarah Jane Hawkins (née Foot) of Charity Farm, Broad Street, Pilgrims Way, Hollingbourne, Maidstone, Kent.

Brother of Miss Winifred Hawkins of Warwick House, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France, and on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 76.

At the time of the 1901 census the Hawkins family resided at Two Cottage Building, Britford, Salisbury, Wiltshire. Head of the house was 38 year old Tarrant Hinton, Dorsetshire native Alfred John Hawkins, who was employed as a Cattleman on a farm. Alfred's wife (William's mother) was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 40 year old native of Sherbourne, Dorset. A former pupil of St. Pauls School, Maidstone, Kent, William had emigrated to Australia when he was eighteen years old, and prior to enlisting for military service on Tuesday 23 November 1915 he was employed as a Harm Hand. Following his initial army training, William sailed from Sydney, New South Wales on Thursday 20 April 1916 onboard the SS Hawkes Bay, heading for service in France. Amongst the six Hawkins children who were shown on the above census as being at home on the night of the census was 4 year old Winifred Hawkins. Following William's death, Winifred made enquiries via the Red Cross, to try and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the demise of her late brother. On different dates and at various locations, a number of personnel of the 15th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. provided the information requested, which basically was that on the night of 1/2 February 1917, the battalion had been taking part in an attack on a German strongpoint, near the village of Guedecourt to the north-east of Flers on the Somme. During the attack William was shot in the head by an enemy sniper and was killed instantly, and of necessity his body was left where he had fallen. In addition to Frank Hawkins who is the last casualty briefly commemorated above, another one of William's brothers also died during the Great War, who was:-

**HAWKINS, ARTHUR FREDERICK.** Private, L/10928.

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

Died 28 October 1918. Aged 21.

Born Graywell, Odiham, Hampshire. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Alfred John Hawkins and Sarah Jane Hawkins (née Foot) of Charity Farm, Broad Street, Pilgrims Way, Hollingbourne, Maidstone, Kent.

Brother of Miss Winifred Hawkins of Warwick House, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.

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

Commemorated on the Hollingbourne, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial.

**HOSMER, PHILIP CHARLES.** Private, 5870.

1st/19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (St. Pancras).

Died 15 September 1916. Aged 19.

Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted St. Pauls Churchyard, London.

Son of Philip and Ellen Hosmer of Mill Hall, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 9 D 9 C 13 C and 12 C.

Formerly Rifleman, 18246, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

**LAKER, PERCY GEORGE.** Private, G/18980.

8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 7 November 1918. Aged 34.

Born Reigate, Surrey. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Kent.

Husband of Edith Rose Laker (née Goodhew) of 4 Pollyfield Cottages, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 7.

Percy enlisted in the army in 1914.

**LINES, GEORGE EDWARD.** Gunner, 115770.

233rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 3 September 1917. Aged 37.

Born and resided Blackheath, Kent. Enlisted Greenwich, Kent.

Son of John and Martha Lines of 11, Sun Lane, Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath, London, SE3.

Husband of Idina Venetia Randall (formerly Lines), (née Walker) of Trinity Place, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Father of George Edward Lines.

Buried Coxyde Military Cemetery, Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: III. E. 17.

When George enlisted in the army on 13 November 1915, he stated that he was aged 31 years and 7 months, and that he was employed as a Carman, and was married with one child. George had married Miss Idina Venetia Walker at Greenwich Registry Office on 19 February 1910. The home address that George gave when enlisting was that of his parents at 11, Sun Lane, Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath, London, SE3. On 26 August 1916 George was mobilized, and served in the United Kingdom until embarking from Southampton on 19 December 1916, and arrived at the French port of Harve the following day for service on the Western Front. Following George's death, the military authorities had quite a problem contacting his widow. Eventually Idina Lines was officially contacted, having been traced via George's mother, at which time Idina resided at "Mayfield," Pinehill Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire. Idina later resided at The Cottage, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berkshire, at which time her son George Edward Lines (junior) was living with his grandmother Mrs. Emma Walker at Trinity Place, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. George was a brother-in-law of Herbert Elvin Lines who is also commemorated on the Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial.

**LOCKE, WILLIAM THOMAS.** Rifleman, 58286.

1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment).

Died 5 October 1918. Aged 18.

Born Pembroke, Pembrokeshire, Wales. Enlisted Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, Wales. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of the late Thomas and Annie Locke.

Buried Aylesford, Kent (St. Peter) Churchyard. Grave Ref: Special Memorial.

Formerly Private, 52005, Cheshire Regiment. The cemetery where William is at rest contains 17 war graves, of which eleven (from Preston Hall Military Hospital, where the British Legion village is now) are in a special plot.

**MANNERING, ROBERT GEORGE.** Gunner, 73903.

126th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 24 June 1917. Aged 34.

Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Hammersmith, Middlesex.

Son of William and Isabella Mannering of 35, Forstal Cottages, Aylesford, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: I. B. 2.

When Robert enlisted in the army on 10 December 1915, he stated that he was a Fishmonger, aged 32 years and 300 days. Robert named his mother as his next of kin, at which time she was residing at 55 Blythe Road, Hammersmith, Middlesex. Robert was placed on the army reserve the day after enlisting, and was mobilized on 3 April 1916 at Fort Burgoyne, Dover, Kent. On 24 April Robert was posted as a Gunner to the 126th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Robert embarked at Folkestone, Kent on 25 July 1916 for service on the Western Front, and arrived at the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer later the same day. A tragic twist regarding Robert's death is that he became ill in June 1917, and on 18 June was admitted to hospital for treatment where he remained briefly as a patient until 22 June, and he was then discharged and returned to duty, just two days prior to being killed in action. Following his death, all official correspondence to his family appertaining to Robert was sent to the former address of the Mannering family at 55 Blythe Road, Hammersmith, Middlesex. Due to the army authorities being unaware that his family had moved to 35, Forstal Cottages, Aylesford, Kent, between the time of Robert's enlistment and his death, the Mannering family members first learned of his death via their former neighbours at Blythe Road, Hammersmith, as opposed to being officially informed by the normal channels. In August 1917, Robert's mother Isabella Mannering wrote to staff at the War Office informing them of the move to Aylesford, Kent, and providing them with the new address. All later correspondence relating to Robert was then sent to Aylesford, which after the Great War had included his medals, commemoration scroll and plaque. Robert's brother; Albert Thomas Mannering was a regular soldier who served in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the Great War as an Acting Warrant Officer Class 2. Fortunately he survived the carnage of the war, and immediately after the war he served as a Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and was stationed at Connaught Barracks, Dover, Kent.

**MAY, JOHN PERCY.** Private, 9044.  
4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.  
Died 22 November 1916.  
Born and enlisted Maidstone, Kent.  
Son of John and Rose May.  
Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Seine-Maritime, France.  
Grave Ref: O. II. J. 7.



**MAY, WILLIAM.** Private, D/9518.  
4th Dragoon Guards (Royal Irish).  
Died 15 April 1918.  
Born and resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent.  
Buried Verchin Churchyard, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: South of Church.  
William is the sole Commonwealth casualty at rest in Verchin Churchyard. Every time that the church at Verchin is passed, the transcriber of these brief commemorations is reminded of the famous crooked spire at St. Mary's and All Saints Parish Church, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, as both look identical.

**PEARSON, THOMAS BENJAMIN.** Private, 81349.  
23rd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), (1st Sportsmans).  
Died 6 October 1918. Aged 36.  
Born Mill Hall, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Lambeth, Surrey. Resided South Lambeth, Surrey.  
Father of Mrs. H. Bibby of 14, Industry Terrace, Station Road, Brixton, London.  
Buried Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: XVI. A. 4.  
Formerly Private, 6131, 3/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

**POOLE, JOHN.** Lance Corporal, L/9834.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 9 August 1915. Aged 23.

Born Forstal, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Poole of 40, Forstal, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12.

John was a regular pre Great War member of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the start of the Great War John, and the other members of the battalion were stationed Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, from where it departed on 12 August 1914, and proceeded to Cambridge where it arrived exactly a week later, the journey allowed the battalion which was in a state of high morale time to indulge in singing on the way, the most popular song being *It's a long way to Tipperary* which had been arranged by Bandmaster Elvin of the battalion. After having been joined by 554 reservists, many of whom were veterans of the Second Boer War or the Northwest Frontier of India, in some cases both, their experience and it as was with of some of the regulars, combined with the youthful enthusiasm of some of the younger members of the battalion set them in good stead when the battalion set foot on French soil at St. Nazaire on 9 September 1914 having crossed from Southampton aboard the SS Minneapolis. Following a number of moves, the battalion arrived at Courcelles and took over front line trenches to the north east of Vailly sur Aisne at 0230 hours on 21 September when relieving the 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers and the 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Private Herbert Cole aged 21 from Battersea, London, became the first of at least 1120 other ranks in the battalion to die during the Great War, the second being 30 year old Private Young T.E. Town from Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent. John was one of 23 other ranks in his battalion who lost their lives on 9 August 1915.

**SCOTT, JOHN JAMES.** M.C. Captain.

1st Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 28 June 1918.

Son of Mrs. Scott of "Aldon," West Malling, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 8.

John served on the Western Front from 12 October 1915.



**SHEPPARD, GEORGE HOWARD.** Chief Petty Officer, 177442.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vanguard.

Died 9 July 1917. Aged 39.

Born Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset 24 September 1878.

Son of Martha H. W. Sheppard of "The Hut," Little Preston, Aylesford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 21, as shown above.

**SHERWOOD, THOMAS.** Private, SD/5683.

9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 1 September 1916.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: I. B. 41.

The 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment had first landed at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France on 1 September 1915. On 30 August 1916, Thomas's battalion moved into trenches at Delville Wood, adjacent to the village of Longueval on the Somme. At 1400 hours the following day the Germans launched an attack on the battalion whilst "A" and "D" Companies held the line beyond the Longueval-Flers Road until withdrawing on 3 September 1916.

**SMITH, ARTHUR LESLIE.** Lieutenant.

1st/4th (Ross Highland) Battalion, (Territorial Force), Seaforth Highlanders.

Attached to the Royal Flying Corps.

Died 22 August 1917. Aged 24.

Son of J. F. Smith of 52, Jemingham Road, New Cross, London.

Husband of Emily Augusta Smith of "Glengarry," Christchurch, Hampshire.

Buried Camberwell Old Cemetery, Forest Hill Road, London, SE22 0SQ.

Grave Ref: 83. 12537.

**SMITH, EDWARD JAMES.** Private, 49115.

4th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Died 30 June 1918. Aged 19.

Born Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Emily Smith of Stud Farm, Little Preston, Aylesford, Kent.

Buried Louvencourt Military Cemetery, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: Plot 1. Row E. Grave 19.

Edward was brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated.

**SMITH, GEORGE THOMAS.** Private, 30777.

12th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Died 26 September 1917. Aged 21.

Born Lenham, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Emily Smith of Stud Farm, Aylesford, Maidstone.

Buried Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref: I. B. 29.

**STONE, THOMAS.** Gunner, 56429.

26th Trench Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 17 July 1915. Aged 24.

Born and resided Mill Hall, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William Thomas and Mary Jane Stone of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. B. 22.

**SYDDALL, GEORGE BAXBY.** Captain.

Canadian Infantry, and 65 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.

Died 4 January 1918. Aged 29.

Born Toronto, Ontario, Canada 1 October, 1887.

Son of George and Elizabeth Sarah Syddall (née Mattingley) of Glengarney, Christchurch, Hampshire.

Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: III. E. 13.

Commemorated on page 509 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance, and on the Canadian Bank of Commerce Roll of Honour.

George is erroneously commemorated by the CWGC as being a member of 56 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps at the time of his accidental death. He was killed while flying a Sopwith Camel (B2418) on a practice flight, when the starboard wing of the aircraft collapsed while in a dive. George was educated at Upper Latimer High School, London, at which time he probably resided at the home of his uncle Henry M. Bayley, at 20 Addison Road, Chiswick, London, which is where George was living at the time of the 1901 census. From 12 February 1913 George was employed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce until enlisting on 29 July 1916, at Camp Hughes, Manitoba, from Canadian Bank of Commerce, Superintendents Department, Winnipeg. At the time of his enlistment at Camp Hughes, George stated that he had two years previous military experience as a member of the 12th Middlesex Volunteers, and that he was a serving member of the Canadian Officers Training Corps, and named his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Sarah Syddall of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, as his next of kin. Following his enlistment on 29 July 1916, initially George served in the 223rd (Scandinavians) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, with the rank of Lieutenant, and was promoted Captain (and Adjutant) in September 1916. George transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in May 1917.

**WALKER, HERBERT ELVIN.** Private, 17455.

3rd Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

Died 1 December 1917. Aged 30.

Born and resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Whitehall, Middlesex.

Son of George and Emma Walker of Trinity Place, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: VIII. E. 9.

Herbert was a brother-in-law of George Edward Lines who is also commemorated on the Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial.

**WALLIS, ROBERT WILLIAM.** Private, G/1296.

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

Died 15 October 1915. Aged 20.

Born and resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of Robert Thomas and Alice Mary Wallis of Holden's Cottages, Baker Street, Burham, Rochester, Kent.

Buried Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: IV. F. 33

Also commemorated on the Burham, Rochester, Kent, civic war memorial.

**WOOD, CECIL.** Corporal, Y/1839.

7th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 18 August 1916. Aged 19.

Born East Peckham, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Phillip and Kate Wood of Forge House, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 13 A and 13 B.

Cecil was a Chorister at Rochester Cathedral, Kent.

As part of the 41st Brigade, 14th (Light) Division, Cecil's battalion left the Arras area of the Pas de Calais for the Somme battlefield on Saturday 29 July 1916. On Tuesday 8 August 1916, the 7th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps arrived at the Somme village of Dernancourt, which is located just off the D52 road between Ville-sur-Ancre and the town of Albert. Three days after arriving at Dernancourt, the battalion moved to Pommiers Redoubt which was to the south of the road which runs between Montauban and Mametz, and the following day it then took up a front line position opposite 'Orchard Trench.' On Tuesday 15 August, Cecil's battalion was relieved in the trenches by their fellow riflemen of the 8th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, and made the return journey back to Pommiers Redoubt. After a two day break, Cecil's battalion was back in the front line on Thursday 17 August, preparing for an attack on the enemy at 'Orchard Trench' which was to take place the following day. Unlike many attacks which were carried out under the cover of darkness, that carried which was undertaken by Cecil's battalion on the day that he was killed in action, was carried out in broad daylight. What was virtually standard practice prior to the infantry attacks by both sides were the precursory artillery bombardments which resulted in mixed results as regards to their effectiveness. Prior to the attack on 'Orchard Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps on Friday 18 August 1916, the artillery barrage had clearly been successful, as after "C" and "D" Companies of Cecil's battalion had advanced at 1445 hours, when their leading waves had reached 'Orchard Trench,' to their doubtless relief they found that the German front line had been virtually completely destroyed by the earlier artillery barrage. 58 other ranks in the battalion fell on 18 August 1916.

**WOODLAND, PERCY HERBERT.** Leading Aircraftman, 5114.

1st Wing, Royal Air Force.

Died 26 February 1919. Aged 26.

Born Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William Francis and Emma Woodland of Rosemary House, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Tournai, Hainaut. Belgium Grave Ref: IV. M. 9.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Woodland family resided at 10 Victoria Street, Maidstone, Kent. Head of the house was 39 year old Frome, Somerset native, William Francis Woodland who was employed as a Gas Fitter.

# The Great War

1914 -1919

## Lost Men

**BARDEN, GEORGE ISAAC G.** Private, 4781.

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

Died 6 May 1916. Aged 36.

Born Blue Bell Hill, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Kent.

Son of the late Isaac and Harriet Barden of Bull Cottages, Eccles, Kent.

Husband of Caroline Browning (Formerly Barden) of Bull Cottages, Eccles, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 45, and on the Eccles, Aylesford, Kent civic war memorial.

**BURGESS, EDWARD.** Rifleman, R/8507.

10th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 3 September 1916.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Darlington, County Durham.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 13 A and 13 B.

**BURGESS, GEORGE EDWARD.** Private, 3799.

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

Died 25 September 1915.

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

Buried Guards Cemetery, Windy Corner, Cuinchy, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: III. A. 2.

Formerly Private, 4476, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

**CHAPMAN, ALFRED LEWIS.** Private, L/10789.

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

Died 10 April 1917. Aged 19.

Born 28 April 1898 Boxley, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Sandling, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Alfred William and Harriett Chapman of 11, Pratling Street, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7, and on the Boxley, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial, but with his initials reversed.

When Alfred enlisted in the army on 25 May 1915, he stated that he was employed as a Gardner, residing at his parents' home New Cottages, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent. Alfred had served in France since 26 February 1917, and was posted to "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on Sunday 18 March 1917. Alfred was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

**CHAPMAN, ROBERT HENRY.** Private, G/5397.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 12 October 1917. Aged 23.

Born Boxley, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Alfred William and Harriett Chapman of 11, Pratling Street, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 17, and on the Boxley, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Chapman family resided at Stream Cottages, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old Maidstone, Kent native Alfred William Chapman, who was employed as a Foreman at a Clay Pit.

**COLE, HERBERT.** Private, G/25358.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 30 June 1918. Aged 19.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Strood, Rochester, Kent.

Brother of Mrs. A. Wildish of 8, Mill Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent.

Buried Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: II. D. 10.

**COLLINS, CYRIL HENRY.** Trooper, 2045.

Royal East Kent Yeomanry.

Died 12 December 1915. Aged 24.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Maidstone, Kent.

Son of the late Charles and Elizabeth Collins of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: D. 216.

**DE BURIATTE, JOHN PHILIP.** Second Lieutenant.

2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died 12 March 1915. Aged 27.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William Warwick de Buriatte and Mary de Buriatte (née Huxley) of The Mill House, Wraysbury, Staines, Middlesex.

Buried Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Mesen, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. B. 3.

Formerly Private and Serjeant, 104, 28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (Artists Rifles). At the time of the 1901 census, John was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 13 year old native of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, and was boarded at his school located at 27 and 28 Upton Road, Slough, Buckinghamshire. For anybody carrying out more detailed research on the De Buriatte family, it should be pointed out that their surname had been changed a number of times, including also being known as Buriatte, Burietti, and a number of other variations of same, but was almost certainly originally Isaac. John was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

**DE BURIATTE**, WARWICK HUXLEY. Lieutenant.

92nd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 19 October 1918. Aged 32.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William Warwick de Buriatte and Mary de Buriatte (née Huxley) of The Mill House, Wraysbury, Staines, Middlesex.

Husband of Dorothy Wentworth Claye (formerly de Buriatte).

Buried St. Andrew's Wraysbury, Staines, Middlesex.

Grave Ref: In south-west part.

Formerly Private, 2646, 28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (Artists Rifles). Tragically having survived the carnage of the Great War, Warwick was killed in a motor bike accident at Enfield, Middlesex. Warwick's wife Dorothy gave birth to their daughter Elizabeth de Buriatte on Friday 14 February 1919. William Warwick de Buriatte (died 1932) was the well known paper manufacturer.

**DURBAN**, ALLAN EDWIN. Serjeant, TF/290501.

1st/10th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 22 August 1917. Aged 27.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Stamford Brook, Middlesex. Resided Kentish Town, Middlesex.

Son of Thomas Morris and Eliza Durban of 154, High Street Hythe, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-18 Memorial. Face 7, and on the Dover, Kent, civic war memorial. Allan is also commemorated at Dover Grammar School for Boys.

Formerly Serjeant, 2169, Middlesex Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census the Durban family was residing at 27 Priory Hill, Dover, Kent.

**GRANT**, HUBERT ANTHONY. Captain.

"B" Company, 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.

Died 24 November 1914. Aged 36.

Son of the Reverend Canon Grant of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Cara Grant.

Buried Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-l'Avoue, Pas-de-Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. C. 8.

Hubert had served in the South African War (Second Boer War 1899-1902), and had been Mentioned in Despatches.

**GRIGSBY**, CHARLES. Private, S/154.

6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 22 February 1915. Aged 35.

Born Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Eccles, Kent.

Son of William Grigsby.

Husband of the late Hetty Grigsby.

Commemorated at Aylesford, Kent (St. Peter) Churchyard.

Ref: Special Memorial.

**HALL, JOHN ERNEST.** Lance Corporal, G/26565.  
East Surrey Regiment.  
Posted to the 1/23rd (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment.  
Died 13 July 1918. Aged 19.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Northampton, Northamptonshire.  
Resided Kettering, Northamptonshire.  
Son of E. A. and E. M. Hall of Kettering, Northamptonshire.  
Buried Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.  
Grave Ref: IV. H. 18.  
Commemorated on the Kettering, Northamptonshire civic war memorial.

**HARBER, CHARLES HERBERT.** Acting Bombardier, 115590.  
67th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Died 25 October 1917.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Plumstead, Kent.  
Husband of Elizabeth Harber (née Hogarth) of 51 Mable Street, Woking, Surrey.  
Buried White House Cemetery, St Jean-les-Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: III. M. 6.  
Commemorated on the Woking, Surrey civic war memorial.  
When Charles enlisted in the army on 21 August 1916, he stated that he was employed as an Excavator, aged 30 years and 8 months, and that his home address was at 3 Glendow Road, Plumstead. Charles married Miss Elizabeth Hogarth at the parish church of South Farnborough, Hampshire, on Boxing Day 1908.

**HEDGCOCK, WILLIAM HENRY.** Lance Corporal, P/88.  
Military Mounted Police, Military Police Corps.  
Died 21 August 1915. Aged 49.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Son of George and Harriet Hedgcock.  
Husband of Mary Hedgcock of 20, Dane Park Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 43.

**HICKMAN, HENRY HERBERT.** Driver, 38403.  
73rd Field Company, Royal Engineers.  
Died 2 July 1917. Aged 22.  
Born Durrants, Hampshire. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Son of Stephen Hickman of 1, New Barn Cottages, Horns Cross, Greenhithe, Dartford, Kent.  
Buried Brandhoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: II. L. 9.

**HILLS, JESSE.** M.M. Corporal, 18876.

3rd Battalion, Machine Gun Corps.

Died 5 May 1918. Aged 29.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Eccles, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Mrs. Hills of Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: LXVIII. A. 27.

Formerly Private, G/8703, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), in which regiment Jesse was serving when he was awarded the Military Medal.

**HODGES, WILLIAM HENRY JOSEPH.** Private, G/21181.

"D" Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 10 April 1918. Aged 20.

Born Ditton, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of William Henry and Jane Green of 26, High Street, Aylesford, Kent.

Buried Lillers Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: V. F. 35.

**JEFFERY, ARTHUR HENRY.** Sapper, 127672.

6th Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 29 April 1918. Aged 20.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Brentwood, Essex.

Son of A.G. and S. H. Jeffery of Keeper's Lodge, Thorndon Park, Brentwood, Essex.

Buried Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Vlamertinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: XIII. G. 13.

**JONES, CHARLES EDWARD.** Driver, 88862.

122nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 30 October 1918.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of George and Louisa Annie Jones of 1, Varnes Street, Eccles, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. E. 11.

**KING, CHARLES.** Private, 156204.

47th Company, Machine Gun Corps.

Died 5 September 1918 aged 22 years.

Born Tenterden, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Kent.

Son of Albert James King of 4, Pretoria Cottages, Bapchild, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 10, and on the Tenterden, Kent, civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, 3910, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

**MAY, ARTHUR.** Private, 99888.  
167th Company, Labour Corps.  
Died 6 July 1919. Aged 40.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Son of Mrs. Eliza Fidge.  
Husband of Annie Wooding (formerly May), of 6, Pleasant Row, Ditton, Larkfield,  
Kent.  
Buried Aylesford, Kent (St. Peter) Churchyard. Grave Ref: 16.  
Formerly Private, 53060, Devonshire Regiment.

**MAY, EDWIN THOMAS CHARLES.** Lance Corporal, G/21970.  
8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).  
Died 28 March 1918.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Borden, Kent.  
Son of Edwin C. and Mary May.  
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 14.  
Formerly Private, 22977, East Surrey Regiment.

**McLELLAN, DAVID COWAN.** Farrier Serjeant, 35205.  
2nd Battery, Royal Field Artillery.  
Died 13 November 1918. Aged 36.  
Born and enlisted Ayr, Scotland.  
Son of William and Mary McLellan of 28, View Field Road, Ayr, Scotland.  
Husband of Edith Mabel Baker (formerly McLellan), of 2, High Street, Aylesford,  
Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Tehran War Cemetery, Iran. Grave Ref: IV. G. 11.

**PICK, GEORGE FREDERICK.** Private, 9645.  
2nd Battalion, Border Regiment.  
Died 26 October 1914. Aged 20.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Lewisham, Kent.  
Son of William G. and Lydia Pick of 25, Airey Street, Cold Bath, Lewisham,  
London.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 35.  
On 5 October 1914 George had entered the French war theatre, and after the  
Great War his mother Lydia Pick, who resided at the above address, submitted a  
formal application for to receive George's 1914 Star and date clasp.

**RICHARDSON, HENRY.** Private, 25246.  
12th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.  
Died 7 June 1917.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Chatham,  
Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 34.  
Formerly Private, 23413, Middlesex Regiment.

**RUCK, ERNEST WALTER.** Corporal, G/24733.  
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).  
Died 21 November 1917. Aged 40.  
Born Rochester, Kent. Enlisted Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Son of Luke and Ellen Ruck.  
Husband of Mabel Alice Ruck (née Monk) of 1 Hosier Lane, Newwhythe, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: II.E.20.  
Commemorated on the East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial.  
Ernest served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War) 1899-1902.

**SANDS, TRAYTON WILLIAM.** Gunner, 794603.  
"A" Battery, 155th Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.  
Died 20 July 1918. Aged 40.  
Born West Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.  
Son of Trayton William and Harriett Sands of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Husband of Alice M. Sands of "Rockhurst," Alma Road, West Malling, Kent.  
Buried Bellacourt Military Cemetery, Riviere, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: III. B. 6.

**TASSELL, WILLIAM HERBERT.** Private, 62858.  
20th (Service) Battalion, (3rd Public Schools) Royal Fusiliers (City of London).  
Died 20 May 1917.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Eccles, Kent.  
Son of William and Olive Tassell.  
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 3.  
Formerly Private, 27132, Middlesex Regiment.

**THEOBALD, SIDNEY VICTOR HUGO.** Lance Corporal, 2096.  
1st/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.  
Died 1 July 1916.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Aston, Birmingham.  
Husband of Mary Ann Theobald of Lowsonford, Henley-in-Arden, Birmingham.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.  
Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B.

**THORNE, JOHN RICHARD.** Rifleman, S/32447.  
2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.  
Died 31 March 1918. Aged 19.  
Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Grays, Essex.  
Son of John and Ada Thorne of 2, Mill Lane, West Thurrock, Grays, Essex.  
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panels 81 to 84.  
Formerly M/305418, Royal Army Service Corps, (Motor Transport).

**TOMLIN**, BERTIE CHARLES. Corporal, 350804.

15th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment.

Died 25 March 1917.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Larkfield, Kent.

Buried Great Yarmouth (Caister) Cemetery, Norfolk. Grave Ref: E. 7. 285.

Formerly Private, 1991, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

**TUPPER**, HAROLD. Second Lieutenant.

10th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London).

Died 22 July 1918. Aged 26.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Tupper of "Bowness," Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried St. John The Baptist Churchyard, Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent, civic war memorial.

Harold had previously been wounded at Bazentin-le-Petit, Somme, France, on 4 August 1916.

**WHEELER**, ISAAC ALFRED. Private, G/392.

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

Died 13 October 1915.

Born Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Eccles, Aylesford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 19.

# The Second World War

1939 – 1945

**BEARMAN**, FREDERICK JAMES. D.C.M. Lance Sergeant, 6348301.  
2/7th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).  
Died 18 September 1944. Aged 28.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of James Henry and Mary Bearman.  
Husband of Alice Ellen Elizebeth Bearman of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Ancona War Cemetery, Tavernelle, Ancona, Italy. Grave Ref: II. L. 9.

**DANES**, GEOFFREY WILLIAM. Gunner, 894139.  
135 (The Hertfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.  
Died 12 September 1940. Aged 28.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of William and Mary Danes of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Husband of Dorothy Joy Danes of Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Aylesford, Kent (St. Peter) Churchyard. Grave Ref: North of church.  
Pre war member of the Royal Artillery.

**DEAN**, CHARLES WILLIAM RONALD. Private, 14797458.  
7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry.  
Died 13 March 1945. Aged 18.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Nelson W. and Florence Dean (née Carr) of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Uden War Cemetery, Noord-Brabant Netherlands. Grave Ref: 6. E. 8.

**PHILLIPS**, LANCELOT JACK. Ordinary Seaman, P/JX 212296.  
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hood.  
Died 24 May 1941.  
Born Isle of Wight 1912.  
Son of Launcelot F. and Rose E.H. Phillips (née Woodnutt).  
Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 51, Column 1.  
Unfortunately on the Aylesford civic war memorial, Lancelot is commemorated with his Christian names reversed. Lancelot Phillips was a brother of Raymond Phillips who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. As the Phillips brothers had consecutive Royal Navy official numbers, and with the prefix P/JX, it would appear that they had both enlisted together. Photographs of both the Phillips brothers can be found at [www.hmshood.com](http://www.hmshood.com) which is the excellent website of the H.M.S. Hood Association. In view of the comprehensive details and data that can be found on the aforementioned website, it would be superfluous to add here any additional details regarding the sinking of H.M.S. Hood, by the German Kriegsmarine warship Bismarck on 24 May 1941.

**PHILLIPS, RAYMOND THOMAS.** Ordinary Seaman, P/JX 212297.  
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hood.  
Died 24 May 1941. Aged 28.  
Son of Launcelot F. and Rose E.H. Phillips (née Woodnutt).  
Husband of Phyllis M. Phillips of Snodland, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 51, Column 1, and on the Snodland, Kent, civic war memorial.

**POOLE, HARRY DOUGLAS.** Sergeant, 754015.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 500 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died 30 August 1941. Aged 22.  
Son of Harry Arthur and Lilian Poole of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 50.

## The Second World War

1939 – 1945

### Lost Casualties

**BOTTEN, WILLIAM LESLIE.** Driver, T/5346864.  
516 Division Composite Company, Royal Army Service Corps.  
Died 10 September 1943. Aged 33.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of William and Avis Botten of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Bone War Cemetery, Annaba, Algeria. Grave Ref: VIII. B. 13.

**CHANTLER, HARRY GEORGE.** Sergeant, 6346538.  
4th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.  
Died 12 April 1944. Aged 25.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Husband of F. M. M. Chantler of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar. Face 16.  
Pre war member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

**COLLINS, WILLIAM EDWIN.** Sergeant, 1259856.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 57 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died 18 August 1942. Aged 22.  
Son of Ernest and Gertrude Rose Collins of British Legion Village, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 80.

**ELDRIDGE**, LEONARD FRANK. Craftsman, 2339398.  
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.  
Died 24 December 1942. Aged 27.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Florence May Eldridge, and stepson of William John Clark of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Caserta War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: IV. D. 20.  
Commemorated on the Eccles, Aylesford, civic war memorial.  
Pre war member of the Royal Corps of Signals.

**ELLIOTT**, ALFRED ERNEST. Civilian casualty.  
Died 27 September 1940. Aged 61.  
Resided 2 Bank View, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Alfred died at Maidstone East Railway Yard.

**FIRMAN**, WILLIAM ROLAND. Private, 6350156.  
4th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.  
Died 4 September 1942. Aged 27.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Fredrick and Elizabeth Firman.  
Husband of Doris Mary Ann Firman of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried El Alamein War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: XXI. B. 12.

**GOODWRIGHT**, WILLIAM FREDERICK. Private, 14514073.  
1/7th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).  
Died 3 September 1944. Aged 19.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of Herbert and Mabel Lucy Goodwright (née Hickford) of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Canadian War Cemetery, Leubringhen, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: 3. F. 7.  
Commemorated on the Eccles, Aylesford, civic war memorial.

**GOULDSTONE**, VICTOR CHARLES WILLIAM ARRAS.  
Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1892933. Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve  
Died 14 April 1944. Aged 27.  
Son of Alfred Leonard and Rose Alice Laura Gouldstone.  
Husband of Hilda Florence Verion Gouldstone of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Aylesford, Cemetery. Grave Ref: S.E. Plot. Grave 6.  
Commemorated on the Eccles, Aylesford, civic war memorial.

**HURLEY**, ALFRED CHARLES. Leading Aircraftman, 975974.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
Died 13 April 1945. Aged 23.  
Son of Alfred and Ada Hurley.  
Husband of Dorothy Hurley of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan. Grave Ref: 1. A. 7.

**LOVE**, DAVID. M.M. Sergeant, 7006373.  
30th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers.  
Died 2 January 1943. Aged 52.  
Son of Robert James Love and Rachel Love.  
Husband of Aileen Caroline Love of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Armagh (St. Mark) Church of Ireland Churchyard.  
Grave Ref: New ground. Row 3. Grave 27.

**PEARCE**, ROBERT JOHN. Lance Serjeant, 1506261.  
195 Battery, 61st (11th Battalion, The London Regiment) Heavy Anti Aircraft  
Regiment, Royal Artillery.  
Died 6 December 1943. Aged 25.  
Born South West London. Resided Kent.  
Son of Richard and Ethel Pearce.  
Grandson of Mrs. M. C. Pearce of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.  
Buried Catania War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: II. E. 11.

**RABJOHN**, ERIC. Sergeant, 1255721.  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 58 Squadron, Royal Air Force.  
Died 9 May 1943. Aged 19.  
Born Kent.  
Son of Arthur and Isabella Jane Rabjohn (née Calder) of Aylesford, Kent.  
Husband of Joan Rabjohn.  
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 162, and the Birling, Kent,  
civic war memorial.

**TOMLIN**, BERT. A.R.P. Decontamination Squad.  
Died 3 August 1944. Aged 34.  
Son of Bert Tomlin of 39 Teapot Lane, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent, and of the  
late Grace Elsie Tomlin.  
Husband of Violet Tomlin of 8 Carey Street, Maidstone, Kent.  
Bert died at Maidstone West Goods Station.

# Post Second World War

**BEADLE**, H.W. Private, 14752854.

1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

Died 3 May 1947. Aged 23.

Son of George William and Charlotte Ada Beadle.

Nephew of William and Lucy E. Moon of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Kuala Lumpur (Cheras Road) Civil Cemetery, Malaysia.

Grave Ref: Grave 894.

In February 1947, the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment was reduced to a cadre strength whilst stationed in Malaya.

**CAVANAGH**, HENRY GEORGE. Warrant Officer Class II (C.S.M.), 7681380.

Corps of Military Police.

Died 1 May 1946. Aged 60.

Husband of Gertrude Cavanagh of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Aylesford, Cemetery. Grave Ref: S.E. Plot. Grave 13.

**HERRINGTON**, ALFRED EDWARD. Bombadier, 11402184.

51 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 13 April 1947. Aged 32.

Son of Charles and Lilian Herrington of Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Tripoli War Cemetery, Libya. Grave Ref: 13. B. 8.





DERRICK ATKINS  
FREDERICK JOHN AVARD  
WILLIAM HENRY BARNES  
ALBERT BOSMFIELD  
GEORGE CROOK  
FRANK CLARK  
FREDERICK W. CLARK  
ARTHUR CLARK M. B.  
WILLIAM GEORGE COBURN  
CECIL ERNEST DAMMS, D. C. M.  
THOMAS DAVIES  
CHARLES NORMAN EASTON  
FREDERICK FRANCIS  
ERNEST GREEN  
ERNEST GREEN  
HONEY GREEN  
JONATHAN ERNEST GRINHAM  
WILLIAM DOUGLAS HAWKINS  
FRANK HAWKINS  
ARTHUR FREDERICK HAWKINS  
WILLIAM HENRY HODGES

GEORGE ATKINS  
FREDERICK JOHN AVARDS  
WILLIAM HENRY BARNES  
ALBERT BROOMFIELD  
GEORGE CAPON  
FRANK CLARK  
FREDERICK W. CLARK  
ARTHUR CLARK, M. M.  
WILLIAM GEORGE COSTIN  
CECIL ERNEST DAMMS, D. C. M.  
THOMAS DANES  
CHARLES NORMAN EASTON  
FREDERICK FRANCIS  
ERNEST GREEN  
FREDERICK GREEN  
SIDNEY GREEN  
JONATHAN ERNEST GRINHAM  
WILLIAM DOUGLAS HAWKINS  
FRANK HAWKINS  
ARTHUR FREDERICK HAWKINS  
WILLIAM HENRY HODGES



