

Brenzett

Within the parish church of St. Eanswith's, Brenzett, Romney Marsh, located on the south west wall inside the church is a wooden memorial plaque commemorating the men from the parish that died during the Great War. In the north aisle is another memorial plaque commemorating those from the adjoining parishes of Brenzett, Snargate and Snave, who died in the Second World War. Mention should be made of the fact that the names of those on the memorial plaques were very kindly provided to us by the historian the late Lavina Jones of Lydd, Kent. Lavina sent the names as set out on the memorial plaques, but for convenience when viewing the following brief commemorations, the transcriber has set them out in alphabetical order. Unlike numerous other locked Kent churches, that of St. Eanswith's thoughtfully provides the key holders address. Unfortunately we have visited on days when the key holder has not been in, and as such we have no photographs of the memorial plaques for inclusion here.

The Great War

1914 -1919

BEARD, WALTER EDMUND. Private, L/9960.

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

Died 18 October 1914.

Born and resided Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2.

EDWARDS, PERCY ALBERT. Private, L/9876.

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

Died 28 September 1915.

Born Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Appledore, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15, and on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of SS Peter and Paul, Appledore, Kent.

HUNT, JOHN. No clear trace.

PALLETT, HARRY. No clear trace. Possibly the following casualty.

PELLETT, HENRY. Private, L/9782.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died Tuesday 29 September 1914.

Born Stone-in-Oxney, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Chichester, Sussex.

Buried Vendresse British Cemetery, Aisne, France. Grave Ref: II.J.14.

Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Stone-in-Oxney, Ashford, Kent.

PERIGO, CHARLES JOHN. Petty Officer 1st Class, 193472.

Royal Navy, "H.M.S. Bulwark."

Died 26 November 1914.

Born Appledore, Ashford, Kent 25 September 1881.

Son of the late Joseph and Louisa Perigo of Snargate, Romney Marsh, Kent.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 1.

POOLE, PERCY. Private, GS/67080.
London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).
Posted to the 2/nd2nd (City of London) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.
Died 28 September 1917. Aged 27.
Son of Thomas Albert and Louisa Poole of Grove Lane Crossing, Brenzett, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: VI. F. 7.
Formerly Private, RTS/4882, Army Remount Service, Army Service Corps.

SMITH, PERCY. Private, G/9702.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 14 May 1917. Aged 28.
Born and resided Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent.
Son of William and Harriet Marie Smith of George Street, Brenzett, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Struma Military Cemetery, Kalokastron, Greece. Grave Ref: VI. C. 9.

WEBB, CYRIL. Private, GS/67111.
London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).
Posted to the 2/nd2nd (City of London) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.
Died 5 November 1917. Aged 24.
Son of Jeremiah and Elizabeth Webb, of Brenzett, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: XXX. J. 26.
Formerly Private, RTS/4812, Army Remount Service, Army Service Corps.

WEBB, LIONEL. Private, G/9076.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 18 August 1916.
Born and resided Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme. France. Pier and Face 5 D.

WEST, SIDNEY JAMES. Stoker 1st Class, K/19572.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke.
Died 1919.
Born St. Mary-in-the-Marsh, New Romney, Romney Marsh, Kent 13 March 1892.
Enlisted Chatham, Kent 11 June 1913.
Son of Stephen and Ellen West.
Not Currently Recorded as a War Casualty by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

*** We are in the process of putting together a case to the MoD to have this man commemorated by the country he gave his life for.**

Prior to enlisting on a twelve year engagement in the Royal Navy, Sidney had been a Cab Driver. Like countless other Royal Navy Stokers of the Great War era, Sidney contracted Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and resultant of same he was discharged from the Royal Navy on 17 October 1917. Although he died in the first quarter of 1919, well before the cut-off date for armed services deaths resulting from the Great War, on 31 August 1921. At this point in time (February 2008), Sidney is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but we will of course be submitting him to the CWGC for rectification of the oversight of many years ago.

Lost Men

EDWARDS, PERCY. Serjeant, L/7640.

3rd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 6 July 1916. Aged 34.

Son of George and Jane Edwards of Guildford, Surrey.

Husband of Barbara Edwards of The Green, Brenzett, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Brenzett Cemetery, Romney Marsh, Kent. Grave Ref: F. 19.

A former member of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), Percy had also served in the Second Boer War in South African.

GOSBEE, NORMAN REGINALD. Private, 59432.

6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

Died 29 September 1918. Aged 19.

Born Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted New Romney, Romney Marsh, Kent.

Son of Albert and Edith Jane Gosbee of Bentley House, Snargate, Brenzett, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 7, and on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Dunstan's, Snargate, Romney Marsh, Kent.

HUGGETT, JAMES. Private, 5135.

11th (Service) Battalion, (1st South Down), Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 11 May 1916.

Born Brenzett, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex.

Buried Le Touret Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoué, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: III. F. 6.

KEELER, ERNEST GEORGE. Private, L/8629

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

Died 27 July 1916. Aged 29.

Born and resided Stelling Minnis, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Edward Keeler of Brenzett Corner, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Welford Cemetery, New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester, Leicestershire. LE1 6ZG.

Grave Ref: Screen Wall commemoration O1. 291.

Commemorated on the Stelling Minnis, Kent civic war memorial.

It would seem likely that Ernest died of wounds whilst a patient at the 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester, Leicestershire.



The Second World War

1939 – 1945

EDWARDS, GEORGE PERCY. Able Seaman, C/JX 134252.
Royal Navy, "H.M.S. Arethusa".
Died 18 November 1942. Aged 27.
Son of W.O. II Percy and Barbara Elizabeth Edwards of Brenzett, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 53. Column 3.

WHEELER, GEORGE. No clear trace.
Due primarily to the scarcity of additional available 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, as at other Kent locations, regrettably it has not been possible to identify George.

Lost Man & Woman

CLARKE, CECIL ALEXANDER. M.C. Major, 122756.
Royal Engineers.
Died 11 December 1943. Aged 53.
Born Croydon, Surrey. Resided Kent.
Husband of Edith Bessie Clarice Clarke, of Biddenden, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Brenzett Cemetery, Romney Marsh, Kent. Grave Ref: Row H. Grave 241.
In addition to being awarded the Military Cross, Cecil was also thrice Mentioned in Despatches.

COURT, ELENOR BARBARA. Firewatcher.
Died 24 March 1943. Aged 30.
Resided Woodlands, Bilsington, Ashford, Kent.
Daughter of Barbara Elizabeth West of Church Lane, Brenzett, Kent.
Commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, and at Bybrook Cemetery, Ashford, Kent.
Elenor died at the Southern Railway Works, Newtown, Ashford, Kent, during a low level enemy bombing raid on the works.

