Broadwater Down
The parish tributes to the war dead of Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells are located in the parish church of St. Mark which is located half way along Broadwater Down on the corner with St. Mark’s Road. The vicinity around Broadwater Down was originally part of Waterdown Forest. By 1860 the area had become a heather covered ridge and gradually gave way to an estate of family houses. This led the 4th Earl of Abergavenny, the Reverend William Nevill (28 June 1792 – 17 August 1868), to commission the building of St. Mark’s Church. The foundation stone was laid by Caroline Countess of Abergavenny on Thursday 20 October 1864 and the building was completed in 1866. With the exception of Great War casualty David Gordon Gray, all of the casualties from both world wars commemorated at St Mark’s Church, are also commemorated on the Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent civic war memorial. Thanks are due again to Susan F. for very kindly providing the photographs taken at the parish church of St. Mark, Broadwater Down for inclusion here.

The Great War
1914 – 1919

ANDREWS, PERCY. Gunner, 194646.
7th Reserve Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died Friday 22 December 1916. Aged 38.
Born Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of the late Frederick Charles Andrews and the late Caroline Manthorpe Andrews (née Vale) of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.
Buried Bury St. Edmunds Cemetery, Suffolk Grave Ref: 31. 38A.
When the 1881 census was conducted, the Andrews family resided at 88, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. Head of the house was 42 year old Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk native Frederick Charles Andrews, who was an Ironmonger. Specific reference is made her of that particular entry because Percy was recorded as being 3 years old, and as the Andrews family had been residing at the same address ten years previously, it would seem likely that the census address was also Percy’s actual place of birth. Having previously worked in Brighton, Sussex as a Shop Assistant, by the time of the 1911 census Percy was employed as a Shop Assistant and residing at the address of his employer Robert Sayle and Co, 12 St. Andrews Street, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. Trade Directories show Robert Sayle and Co, to have been a department store selling a variety of clothing, furniture and homewares for different rooms in the house. Of Kent military interest is that Private G/15738, Samuel Chesire Doubleday, 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who fell on Wednesday 8 May 1918 aged 26, had also been employed by Robert Sayle and Co. The 7th Reserve Brigade, Royal Field Artillery was a Territorial Force unit, which at the time of Percy’s death at Frensham, Surrey, was stationed at Bordon, Hampshire which is approximately 5 miles from Frensham. For many years Percy’s family had a successful Ironmongers business at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.
ATKINS, FREDERICK. Private. Royal Fusiliers.
No trace of this casualty as commemorated on the Great War memorial plaque in
the parish church of St. Mark, Broadwater Down. In view of the number of
soldiers that served in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) during the
years of the Great War, it was surprising to find that only 4 members of the
regiment with the surname Atkins lost their lives, including the following soldier:-

ATKINS, FRED ERNEST. Private, 2218.
3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Son of Charles Atkins and Mary Atkins of Rectory Cottage, Binbrook,
Lincolnshire.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 6,
and on the Binbrook, Lincolnshire civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1911 census, Fred was residing at 50, Mount Street, St.
George, Hanover Square, London, where he was employed as a Footman. Head
of the house was Fred's employer 44 year old Herbert Merton Jessel (1866 –
1950, who later became Colonel Herbert Merton Jessel, 1st Baron Jessel, C.B.,
C.M.G., T.D., D.L., J.P. who was a Liberal Unionist Party M.P. and subsequently
a Conservative politician. Fred was posted to France for service with the British
Expeditionary Force on Sunday 7 March 1915, whilst serving as a Private in the
3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Fred's death was
amongst those of 12 other ranks serving in his battalion on Monday 3 May 1915.
On Thursday 5 August 1920, the Vicar of the parish church of St. Mary and St.
Gabriel's church, Binbrook the Reverend Basil Lewin Greeson of Binbrook
Rectory, Lincolnshire applied for Fred's war medals on behalf of Fred's father
Charles. The Reverend Greeson was the Vicar at Binbrook from 1914 until 1928.

BAKER, ERNEST. Private, G/23407.
11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.
Died Friday 9 February 1917. Aged 36.
Born Frant, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of Stephen Baker of 3, Bayham Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and of
the late Harriett Baker (née Underhill).
Husband of Annie Kate Baker (née Jeffery) of Ivy Cottage, Tangier Lane, Frant
Forest, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Par de Calais, France. Bay 7.
Ernest was christened in the parish church of St. Alban, Frant, Sussex on
Sunday 11 July 1880. His marriage to Lamberhurst native Annie Kate Jeffery
was recorded in the Ticehurst, Sussex, Registration District during the third
quarter of 1903. Annie was a daughter of William Jeffery and Hannah Jeffery. At
the time of the 1911 census, Ernest was recorded by the enumerator as being
the head of the house at Tangier Lane, Frant Forest, Tunbridge Wells, and was
employed as a Gardener. Ernest was one of only two other ranks serving in the
11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment that fell on Friday 9 February 1917.
BENTON, PERCY JOHN. Driver, T/2241.
1/3rd Kent (Fortress) Company, Royal Engineers.
Born and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent.
Son of James Frederick Benton and Emily Benton of 26, Birling Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 23 to 25 or 325 to 328, and on the H.M.S. Hythe Memorial Plaque, St. Matthew's Parish Church Gordon Road, High Brooms, Royal Tunbridge Wells.
Percy was educated at St. Marks School, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells. At the time of the 1911 census, the Benton family resided at 26, Birling Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 50 year old Chelsea, London native James Frederick Benton, who was employed as a Bricklayer. The then 15 year old Percy was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Gardener Nurseryman, which was at Russells Nurseries, Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. On Sunday 10 October 1915 the British War Cabinet had taken the decision to stop sending more troops to Gallipoli, where to put it mildly operations had not strictly gone to plan. That important decision notwithstanding, the following day 231 men of the 1st/3rd (Kent) Field Company, Royal Engineers sailed from Devonport Docks heading for the eastern Mediterranean and Gallipoli. The voyage out to the eastern Mediterranean was fortunately uneventful. At Mudros Bay, Turkey, most of the Field Company transferred to smaller ships to actually take them to Helles. H.M.S. Hythe, a former cross-channel paddle-driven ferry, with a displacement of 509 tons. She had been built in 1905 for the South Eastern and Chatham Railway to work the Dover-Calais route. Requisitioned at the outbreak of war she had been transformed into a minesweeper and armed with a couple of twelve pounder guns. In 1915, she was sent to work on troop movements in the Dardanelles. H.M.S. Hythe left Mudros Bay at about 16.00 hours on Thursday 28 October 1915 at which time she was grossly overloaded, including men who were packed on the decks, many huddling under an awning that had been rigged up to give at least some form of relief from rain and spray. At about 20.00 hours, as the vessel neared its destination, men made preparations for embarking putting on their kit, whilst drivers went to their respective vehicles, and the H.M.S. Hythe doused all her lights. Of significance it was a rough and squally day which had resulted in a great number of the men aboard the ship being seasick. With their discomfort of those onboard the ship almost at an end, having almost reached its destination and the soldiers preparing for disembarking, when suddenly a large vessel loomed out of the darkness and in spite of all efforts to avoid a collision it ran into H.M.S. Hythe, cutting deep into her port bow and bringing down the foremast. In ten minutes the vessel sank, leaving numbers struggling in the water or hanging on to spars and other floating matter. The boats of the H.M.S. Sarnia, the ship which had hit John’s vessel did all they could and picked up many survivors, but sadly all to few, for approximately 130 men drowned. H.M.S. Sarnia was also a requisitioned ferry which had been built in 1910 for the London and South Western Railway. In war service she became an armed boarding steamer, with a
displacement of 1498 tons and a top speed of 20.5 knots, H.M.S. Sarnia was a much larger and more powerful vessel than H.M.S. Hythe, which had a maximum speed of only 12 knots. Subsequent enquiries following the tragic loss of H.M.S. Hythe revealed that both vessels made at least one change of course, but it seems that neither slowed down. The H.M.S. Sarnia struck the port side of H.M.S. Hythe with such force that its bows cut halfway through the ship. That brought the H.M.S. Hythe to a dead stop and caused its mast to collapse on the awning. Numerous deaths were caused instantly by the bows of H.M.S. Sarnia and the collapsing mast, but those remaining fared little better. The massive damage caused H.M.S. Hythe to sink rapidly. It was all over in approximately ten minutes. Many soldiers were drowned trapped under the awning, or in the cabs of their vehicles. Most of the others had little or no time to gain the ships railings and throw off their kit before they were in the sea. Panic reigned as soldiers scrambled for the few life-jackets that could be grabbed before the ship sank. Most of those who jumped overboard were drowned in the chaos that followed, and sadly only a lucky few were able to scramble from one vessel to the other without even getting their feet wet.

BERKELEY, MAURICE HENRY FITZARDININGE. Major.
27th Ammunition Park, Army Service Corps.
Died Tuesday 1 January 1918. Aged 32.
Born Sydenham, Kent.
Son of Essex Digby Berkeley and Mary Ann Berkeley.
Husband of Lucy Millicent Berkeley (née Gofton-Salmond) of 1, Somerville Gardens, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried Beckenham Crematorium & Cemetery, Elmers End Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4TD. Grave Ref: V4. 7489.
Maurice was educated at Fauconberge School, Ballygate Street, Beccles, Suffolk. At the time of the 1911 census Maurice was serving as a Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps, at Buller Barracks (Area 5), Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, Hampshire. He was serving as a Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps when he arrived on the Western Front for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Saturday 15 August 1914. As a Captain in the Army Service Corps, Maurice had been Mentioned in Despatches as was published on page 1669 of The London Gazette dated Wednesday 17 February 1915. The final reading of the Banns prior to the marriage of Maurice to Lucy Millicent Gofton-Salmond were read out on Sunday 11 April 1915 at the parish church of Christ Church, Norwood, London, at which time his address was recorded as St. Marks, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The marriage of Maurice and Lucy was recorded in the Ticehurst, Sussex, Registration District during the second quarter of 1915. Maurice died at St. Thomas’s Nursing Home, Surrey on Tuesday 1 January 1918, at which time his home address and that of his wife Lucy, who was his next of kin, was at 22, Primrose Mansions, Prince of Wales Road, Battersea Park, Surrey, prior to which Maurice and his wife had resided at 30, Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Born at Camberwell, London on Friday 1 January 1886, Maurice’s widow Lucy never remarried, and she died at Bournemouth, Dorset in December 1973.
BISHOPP, THOMAS CHARLES. Private, 48003.  
20th (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.  
Died Wednesday 11 April 1917. Aged 28.  
Born Robertsbridge, Sussex. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.  
Son of Mary Ann Bishopp (née White) of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and of the late James William Bishopp.  
Husband of Amelia Jane Bishopp of The Barracks, Nutley, Uckfield, Sussex.  
Formerly 169533, Royal Engineers. At the time of the 1911 census, Thomas was recorded as being a visitor at 20, St. Johns Grove, Croydon, Surrey, and was a Carpenter and Joiner. When the 1911 census was conducted, Thomas’ mother and his 27 year old brother William James Bishopp (on census entry as James William Bishopp) were living at 28, Birling Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Widowed 60 year old Mary Ann Bishopp who was a native of Buckden, Huntingdonshire was recorded by the enumerator as being the head of the house, and was an Own Account Laundress. Thomas was posted overseas for service with the British Expeditionary Force, whilst he was serving as a Private in the Northumberland Fusiliers. Like many of the casualties at rest at the Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Aubigny-en-Artois, Thomas died of wounds, and due primarily to the fact that he was not an officer, it has not been possible to add here where, when or how he suffered the wounding from which he died. He was a brother-in-law of Ralph Livesey who is also one of the other Great War casualties that is commemorated in the parish church St. Mark, Broadwater Down. Thomas’ brother William James Bishopp enlisted in the army on Friday 2 March 1917, and called up for service at Tonbridge, Kent on Saturday 31 March 1917. William joined the Army Service Corps on Friday 6 April 1917, and served in the Army Service Corps/Royal Army Service Corps, which had included service with the British Expeditionary Force from Saturday 28 April 1917 until Saturday 2 February 1918. On Tuesday 9 December 1919, William was demobilized and transferred to class “Z” of the Army Reserve.

BURTON, RICHARD. Captain.  
Royal Army Service Corps.  
Son of Charles William Burton of 28, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.  
Also commemorated on the University of London Officers Training Corps Roll of the Fallen, and on the City & Guilds College (now part of Imperial College London) combined Great War and Second World War memorial plaque.  
During the Great War, Richard had been on the Special List and had been attached to the Staff. He had been evacuated back to England suffering from Shell-Shock. At the time of his death, Richard’s home address was recorded as being at 69, St. George’s Road, Middlesex, which was possibly at Enfield. He died of Pneumonia which was complicated by the Shell-Shock from which he had suffered since serving in action during the Great War.
CLARK, ARTHUR FREDERICK. Private, R.M.A/16351.
Royal Marines Artillery Headquarters, Eastney, Portsmouth, Hampshire.
Born St. Peters, Tunbridge, Wells, Kent on Friday 1 June 1900.
Son of George Clark and Harriet Clark (née Dann) of 1, Yew Tree Cottages, Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried St. Alban's Churchyard, Frant, East Sussex. Grave Ref: 2. 5. 5.
At the time of the 1911 census, the Clark family was residing at 1, Yew Tree Cottages, Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent native George Clark, who was employed as a Gardener. Arthur’s death was recorded in the Portsmouth, Hampshire, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1918. He died of an illness as opposed to enemy action. We have not purchased or viewed a copy of Arthur’s death certificate, and as such it is purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and should therefore be viewed as such, but Arthur was possibly a victim of the worldwide Influenza pandemic which occurred between January 1918 and December 1920, and ultimately claimed more victims than those resultant of military actions during the Great War. Although no one knows for sure, but current estimates range from 50 to 100 million people worldwide were victims of the Influenza pandemic. Arthur does not have a regulation pattern headstone on his grave at St. Alban’s Churchyard, Frant, but one which was probably paid for by his family.

DANN, ALFRED GEORGE. Lance Corporal, L/10750.
2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.
Born Frant, Sussex. Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of the late George Dann.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 C.
At the time of the 1911 census, the Dann family was residing at 35, Bayham Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 49 year old Frant, Sussex native George Dann, who was a Gardener, the then 14 year old Alfred was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as News Boy. Alfred’s mother Frances Dann was a native of Pembury, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Alfred was serving in the Royal Sussex Regiment as a regular soldier, and he was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Wednesday 29 September 1915, whilst serving as a Private in the Royal Sussex Regiment. On Monday 14 August 1916 the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment in which Alfred was serving at the time of his death moved to the front line at High Wood via the village Mametz. Two days later the battalion attacked and captured part of a German trench running westwards across the Bazentin-le-Petit Road from High Wood. Alfred was numbered amongst the 30 other ranks serving in his battalion that fell on Thursday 17 August 1916, when the enemy launched a series of counter attacks which had included the prolific use of flamethrowers. At least 20 of the casualties who fell on Thursday 17 August 1916 whilst serving in the battalion are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.
FIELD, ALFRED HENRY. Corporal, G/1844.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Born St. James’s Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of George Field and Elizabeth Field of 33, Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.
At the time of the 1911 census, the Field family resided at Braidswood 1, Linden Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 64 year old George Field, who was employed as a Jobbing Gardener, and the then 24 year old Alfred was recorded by the enumerator as being a Gardener. When Alfred arrived on the Western Front on Monday 26 July 1915 for service with the British Expeditionary Force, he was a Lance Corporal in the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Following his death, Alfred was initially posted as ‘Missing’ but subsequently the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes it was to be assumed that he had died on or after 13 July 1916. When his mother Elizabeth Field applied for Alfred’s war medals she was residing at “Woodthorpe,” 43, Ashmead Road, St. Johns Wood, London.

FRY, CLAUDE FRANCIS. Stoker 1st Class, K/18575.
Born Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent on Monday 18 July 1892.
Son of James Alexander Fry and Helen Fry (née Low) of 7, Benhall Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 32, as shown above.
At the time of the 1911 census, the Fry family resided at 7, Warwick Cottages Benhall Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 47 year old Tonbridge, Kent native James Alexander Fry who was a Fly Proprietor, and the then 18 year old Claude was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Gardener. He stated that he was a Gardner when he enlisted in the Royal Navy for 12 years on Monday 17 March 1913. From the day of his enlistment until Wednesday 6 August 1913, Claude was a Stoker 2nd Class at H.M.S. Pembroke the Royal Naval shore establishment at Chatham, Kent. On Thursday 7 August 1913 he joined the 17,000 ton King Edward VII class Royal Navy battleship H.M.S. Commonwealth. Whilst serving on the battleship, Claude’s rating was raised to that of Stoker 1st Class on Friday 16 January 1914. He left the ship on Tuesday 25 May 1915 due to having been accepted for training as a submariner. On the completion of his submariner training, at the Submarine Training School H.M.S. Dolphin, and time spent serving on the 3,600 ton submarine depot ship H.M.S. Maidstone which was in the 8th Submarine Flotilla, Harwich, Essex, Claude joined H.M. Submarine E19 on Friday 4 August 1916. Claude served on the E19 until Monday 14 January 1918. In November 1915,
H.M. Czar Nicholas II of Russia had visited the Royal Navy Baltic crews, and on that occasion 5 sailors from H.M. Submarine E8, and 5 from H.M. Submarine E19 were selected from their respective crews to have the Cross of St. George 4th Class (Russia) personally pinned on their uniforms by the Czar. The remainder of the crews from both of the submarines received the same decoration in June 1916, one of whom was Claude. He returned to H.M.S. Dolphin the day after leaving the E 19, which is where he remained until joining H.M. Submarine M1 on Friday 26 April 1918. Having survived the Great War, tragically Claude was accidentally drowned off the coast of Constantinople, Turkey, on Friday 24 January 1919 at which time his home address and that of his father who was his next of kin, was 7, Cemetery Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. On Monday 27 January 1919 a Court of Enquiry was held into the circumstances etcetera appertaining to Claude’s tragic death. The basic findings of the Court of Enquiry were that his death was an accident and that no blame could be attributed to any other person for the accident. The board members of the Court of Enquiry noted “That every possible endeavor was made to rescue him, and that the effort of rescue was carried out with great rapidity and efficiency.” H.M. Submarine M.1 on which Claude had served was sunk off Start Point in the English Channel on Thursday 12 November 1925 with the loss all 69 hands whilst she was taking part in an exercise, after being struck by of the Swedish 2,045 ton Stockholm Steamship Company vessel S.S. Vidar.

GILBERT, JOHN ROBERT. Driver, T/2240.
1/3rd Kent (Fortress) Company, Royal Engineers.
Born Marden, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent. Resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of John William Gilbert and Annie Gilbert of 6, Cemetery Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 23 to 25 or 325 to 328, and on the H.M.S. Hythe Memorial Plaque, St. Matthew’s Parish Church Gordon Road, High Brooms, Royal Tunbridge Wells.
John was educated at St. Marks School, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells, and King Charles School, Royal Tunbridge Wells. He had been a meber of the Choir at St. Marks church and at times acted as an organ blower. At the time of the 1911 census, the Gilbert family resided at 6, Warwick Cottages, Benhall Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Marden, Maidstone, Kent native John William Gilbert, who was employed as a Gardener, as was the then 17 year old John (junior). Prior to being mobilized, John had been employed as a Gardener by Alfred Taylor-Jones of Wybourne Grange, Royal Tunbridge Wells, whose adopted son Alfred Vernon Oliver-Jones is one of the Great War casualties commemorated in the parish church of St. Marks, Broadwater Down. Some data checked appertaining to John, shows the Christian name JAMES which is incorrect. John was a victim of the loss of H.M.S. Hythe, and for brief details about the loss of the ship, please also see the brief commemoration of Driver, Percy John Barton on pages 4 and 5 above.
GORDON, ROBERT NORMAN. Captain.
2nd Battalion, Border Regiment.
Died Wednesday 28 October 1914.
Born Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Resided Shoeburyness, Essex.
Son of John Gordon of “Didmartin,” Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 35.
Robert was born at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Friday 18 June 1875. He was
educated at Frant Preparatory School, Sussex, prior to going to Repton School,
Repton, Derbyshire. He was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Border
Regiment on Saturday 28 September 1895, and promoted to a Lieutenant on
Saturday 23 April 1898. He was promoted to the rank of Captain on Friday 1 April
1904. Robert was a regular soldier serving as a Captain in the 2nd Battalion,
Border Regiment which was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Ironside
Wood, when the battalion left Southampton for Zeebrugge, Belgium on two ships,
as part of the 20th Brigade, 7th Division on Sunday 4 October 1914. “A” and “B”
Company personnel sailed on the SS Minneapolis, and “C” and “D” Company
sailed on the SS Turkoman. N.B. There are a number of variations appertaining
to the date of Robert’s death depending on which data sources or publications
are accessed. Colonel H.C. Wylly, C.B. in his book The Border Regiment in the
Great War, notes that the front held by the 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment on 20
October 1914 extended for 2 1/4 miles, and that it was impossible to connect all
companies, platoons, and sections by trenches. He also noted that the positions
were along the Zandvoorde road where it cuts the Kruijsecke-Wervicq road.
Colonel Wylly records Robert’s death as having occurred on Thursday 23
October 1914, whilst another single source says 25 October 1914 having been
wounded two days earlier, but the majority of data sources checked show his
date of death as Wednesday 28 October 1914. In view of the contradiction
regarding dates, it would seem likely that Robert had been numbered amongst
those who were wounded on Thursday 23 October 1914, and had succumbed to
his wounding on Wednesday 28 October 1914 and his grave subsequently lost.

GRAY, DAVID GORDON. Second Lieutenant.
4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died Tuesday 31 July 1917. Aged 22.
Born and resided Lee, Kent.
Son of Thomas Bewick Gray and Eliza Gordon Gray of 37, Broadwater Down,
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried Aeroplane Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: V. B. 20.
David is also commemorated on a private memorial in St. Mark’s church,
Broadwater Down, and on the war memorial at the parish church of St. Mildred,
St. Mildred’s Road, Lee. London, SE12 0RA, also on the Great War memorial
panels at Felstead School, Essex, but he is not commemorated on the Royal
Tunbridge Wells civic war memorial.
Formerly Private, 1918, 1/14th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment
(London Scottish). David was educated at Lindisfarne School, 23, Belmont Road,
Blackheath, Kent prior to going to Felsted School, Felsted, Great Dunmow, Essex where he was in Windsor's from September 1910 to April 1913, and was at the school when the 1911 census was conducted. At the time of the same census, David’s parents were residing at the Gray family home 18, Corona Road, Lee, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Sunderland, County Durham native Thomas Bewick Gray, who was Ship Broker. David was posted to France on Tuesday 15 September 1914 for service with the British Expeditionary Force as a Private in the 1/14th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish), which was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel G.A. Malcolm when it arrived at the French port of Harve on Wednesday 16 September 1914.

Whilst serving on the Western Front with the battalion, David was wounded and evacuated back to England. On Friday 4 August 1916, David was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). In April 1917, David returned to the Western Front and was killed in action on Tuesday 31 July 1917. In a letter of condolence to David's father, his Adjutant wrote: "My esteem for Gordon was more than that of friendship; not only was he capable, but he always carried out his duties cheerfully, however arduous. His cheerfulness and good temper also made him very popular." On Wednesday 12 December 1917, David's father applied for his late sons 1914 Star, at which time he resided at "Redholme," Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, Kent. Further letters requesting the medal were submitted by Thomas Bewick Gray on Saturday 21 February 1920 and Friday 9 April 1920. At the time of submitting the last two requests, David’s father was living at 37, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. On Monday 9 February 1925 Thomas Bewick Gray died at 3, Clarence Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, and 37, Broadwater Down was still his home address, as it was when David’s mother died the next month on Thursday 12 March 1925.

HICKS, LESLIE EDWIN. Private, 44330. 10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment. Died Thursday 8 August 1918. Aged 19. Born and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Son of Christopher Hicks and Grace Hicks (née Piddlesden) of 7, Birling Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Buried Beacon Cemetery Sailly Laurette, Somme, France. Grave Ref: VI. B. 2. Formerly Private, 51268, Suffolk Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census, the then 2 year old Leslie was living with his grandparents Edwin Piddlesden and Mary Ann Piddlesden (née Weller) at 22, Birling Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 60 year old Rotherfield, Sussex native Edwin who was employed as a Domestic Gardener. Leslie’s parents were residing nearby at 4, Napier Terrace, Royal Tunbridge Wells, where Christopher Hicks was recorded as being the head of the house and as being was employed as an Assistant Butcher. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Hicks family resided at 7, Birling Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was Leslie’s father who was 36 year old Lower Swell, Gloucestershire native, who was still being employed as an Assistant Butcher. Leslie’s 35 year old mother
Grace was recorded by the enumerator as being a native of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. When he was posted to the Western Front for service with the British Expeditionary Force, on a date unknown, Leslie was serving as a Private in the Suffolk Regiment. The History of the 10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment that was a battalion in the 53rd Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division) which Leslie was serving in at the time of his death contains the following: "Never had the Division participated in a battle which was kept so secret. The general plan was communicated to Brigade and Battalion commanders on 3rd August and it was emphasised that only certain officers should be informed. As artillery positions were in view of the enemy, there was no preliminary digging of gun pits, the guns themselves were not brought up until the night of the 7th. Also thousands of rounds of ammunition had to be taken up under cover of darkness and sorted and stacked and hidden beneath hedges, under banks and among uncult cornfields." Due to the fact that plans for the intended attack had remained a closely guarded secret, it was purely coincidental that the enemy launched a surprise attack on Tuesday 6 August along a 2 mile front which was partially successful. Due to the German surprise attack the British had to commit battalions which were being held in readiness for the attack planned for Thursday 8 August. During the following day however, British troops retook and held sufficient ground from the enemy to enable the attack to go ahead as planned albeit with variations. Leslie's battalion was one of those detailed to be used in support of the leading units during the assaulting of the enemy positions, with instructions to move when the initial objectives had been successfully secured, which were German held trenches near the Somme village of Morlancourt. At zero hour, the attacking brigades moved forward, and although one brigade had some success, but 36th Brigade could not reach its objective of a road between Morlancourt and Malard Wood. Leslie's battalion was ordered to move forward and it eventually secured the road, but at a cost of approximately 200 mixed casualties of dead and wounded personnel. The battalion then pushed on for about a mile, and during the course of the advance it captured two enemy artillery batteries and several prisoners. The battalion was then found to be unsupported on the left flank, as the soldiers of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) had not been able to make such a rapid progress. The enemy fire increased and the position of the Leslie’s battalion became critical. Of significance was that of the 20 tanks that had been expected to support the attack, 6 of them were put out of action before they even reached the original front line which had fallen to the enemy on Tuesday 6 August, and not one of the supporting tanks managed to reach the 10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment positions. By 09.00 hours the officers of the battalion was faced with no other option but to order their men to retire back to the captured positions on the Morlancourt Road. A total of 66 other ranks deaths were recorded on the casualty returns of the 10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment for Thursday 8 August 1918 one of which was Leslie, who at the time of his death was serving in the battalion as a Signaller. Another Kent casualty also fell, who was 25 year old Alfred John Mercer Tupper the son of John and Alice Tupper of 24, Champion Park, Lower Sydenham, London, Alfred was a native of East Malling, Kent.
HYDER, WILLIAM ARTHUR. Private, 24863.
37th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Died Thursday 2 August 1917. Aged 29.
Born and enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of James William Hyder (née Reed) and Rachel Hyder of 38, Eridge Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried Monchy British Cemetery, Monchy-le-Preux, Par de Calais, France.
Formerly Private, G/661, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Unfortunately William is commemorated on the Great War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mark, Broadwater Down as still being a member of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) at the time of his death. William was born at Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent on Wednesday 30 November 1887. At the time of the 1911 census, the Hyder family resided at 38, Eridge Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 55 year old Rotherfield, Sussex native James William Hyder, who was employed as a Railway Signalman by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company. William was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Railway Porter, and he too was like his father an employee of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company. William was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Tuesday 1 June 1915, whilst he was serving as a Private in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

OLIVER-JONES, ALFRED VERNON. Lieutenant.
No.21 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, and Royal Field Artillery.
Died Friday 21 July 1916.
Born Kensington, London. Resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Eldest son of the late William Oliver-Jones, and the late Helen Maud Oliver-Jones (née Appach).
Nephew and adopted son of Alfred Taylor-Jones of Wybourne Grange, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Flying Service Memorial, Par de Calais, France.
Alfred was born at Kensington, London, and was christened at the parish church of St Jude, South Kensington, London on 6 July 1892. He was educated at
Oundle School, Northamptonshire, and later studied Engineering. At the time of the 1911 census, Alfred was residing at “Secundus,” Osmond Gardens, Hove, Sussex, and was recorded by the enumerator as being an Engineering Student. Alfred was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery in October 1914. He arrived on the Western Front on Thursday 4 February 1915 for service with the British Expeditionary Force, as a Second Lieutenant in the 66th Battery, Royal Field Artillery. On Friday 9 July 1915 Alfred was seriously wounded during the ‘Battle of Neuve Chapelle’ and was evacuated back to England. Amongst the injuries which Alfred had suffered was the loss of a number of fingers on his left hand. Due to the wounding it was not possible for Alfred to remain in the Royal Field Artillery, and still wanting to serve, he successfully applied for training as an Observer in the Royal Flying Corps, which he joined on Saturday 11 March 1916, commencing his training as an Observer with flights at Netheravon, Wiltshire. On the successful completion of his training as an Observer he was posted back to France to serve in No.21 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. Prior to his death, Alfred had flown in his squadrons R.E. 7s on bombing and reconnaissance sorties, which had included surviving a number of forced landings and crashes after reconnaissance flights over Lille and Cambrai in June and July 1916, and had completed at least two dozen operational sorties, latterly with Captain Jack Oliver Cooper as his pilot. The son of Lady and Captain Cooper, and an old Harrovian, Jack Cooper was an experienced pilot with a R.F.C. commission dating from January 1915. The two officers were flying in RE7, (Serial 2388) of No.21 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps on a bombing mission on Épény Station, when their aircraft was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire near the village of Beaulencourt, Pas de Calais. Six R.E.s of the squadron took part in the raid on Épény, during which, fourteen 112-pound bombs were dropped. Two burst in the station and others on the line north of it and in the town. The machine in which they were flying at the time of their deaths was the last RE7 lost by their squadron before the type was replaced with the BE12. When Alfred’s uncle Alfred Taylor-Jones submitted a request to be sent Alfred’s war medals his address was 15, East Cliffe Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. In 1930 the father of Jack Oliver Cooper contributed £5,000 to the building of the Lido Pavilion in Hyde Park, London in memory of his late son, who like Alfred, Jack is also commemorated on the Arras Flying Service Memorial.

LIVESEY, RALPH. Sapper, 3740.
3/1st (Home Counties) Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers.
Died Thursday 27 December 1917. Aged 39.
Son of Ralph Livesey and Sarah Ann Livesey.
Husband of Mary Elizabeth Livesey (née Bishop) of 14, Birling Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Ralph was born at Hollinwood, Lancashire on Friday 1 November 1878, and was baptized at the parish church of St. Margaret, Hollinwood, Lancashire on Sunday 29 December 1878, at which time Ralph Livesey (senior) was employed as a
Coachman. When the 1901 census was conducted, the Livesey family lived at 17, Neville Terrace, Broadwater Down, Royal Tonbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 59 year old Little Laver, Lancashire native Ralph Livesey (senior) who was employed as a Domestic Coachman. Ralph (junior) was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Clerk. His marriage to Miss Mary Elizabeth Bishopp was recorded in the Ticehurst, Sussex, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1902. Ralph’s wife was the daughter of Mary Ann Bishopp and the late James William Bishopp, and was a sister of Charles Frederick Bishopp who is one of the Great War casualties commemorated in the parish church St. Mark, Broadwater Down. At the time of the 1911 census, Ralph was recorded by the enumerator as being the 32 year old head of the house at 14, Birling Road, Royal Tonbridge Wells, Kent, and was an Insurance Agent. Ralph enlisted for 4 years in the Territorial Force in the United Kingdom on Monday 22 November 1915, at which time he stated that he was 34 years old, and resided at 14, Birling Road, Royal Tonbridge Wells, Kent with his wife who was his next of kin. At the time of enlisting Ralph was employed as a Post Office Linesman. Ralph served at home in the same unit for 1 year and 13 days, and was Medically Discharged on Monday 4 December 1916, “Having been found to be no longer physically fit for war service.” Resulting from an Army Medical Board that was conducted on Monday 13 November 1916, it was noted that whilst serving at Cookham in May 1916, Ralph was taken ill with Acute Pleurisy. He suffered with a cough especially at night, and shortness of breath was evident. Ralph also had a hollowing of his chest and was deficient of air intake. The Army Medical Board found that Ralph was suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis resultant of ordinary military service, it being a sequel to having contacted Acute Pleurisy. It also found that the Acute Pleurisy had been caused by sleeping in an empty house with only a groundsheet and two blankets, and without a mattress. The Army Medical Board stamped Ralph papers TOTAL DISABLEMENT, adding Permanent, Total Incapacity, 1 year with a review due on Monday 4 June 1917. The review date was not necessary as Ralph was assessed on Saturday 31 March 1917, whilst he was a patient receiving treatment for his Pulmonary Tuberculosis at Fairlight Sanatorium, Hastings, Sussex. He was reported to have been totally incapacitated and with nil earnings. Another report into Ralph’s condition was submitted on Friday 17 August 1917, which again recorded totally incapacity and with nil earnings. At the time of being discharged from the Territorial Force, Ralph’s character was assessed as being Very Good. On being discharged he was awarded a Silver War Badge (No.74209) with the accompanying King’s Certificate of Appreciation. From Christmas Day 1916 Ralph received a disability pension for himself, wife and three children. Ralph’s death was recorded in the Ticehurst, Sussex, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1917, following his death on Thursday 27 December 1917. At the time of carrying out this Broadwater Down update on the www.kentfallen.com website, Ralph is not commemorated as having been a Great War casualty by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but we have now commenced the process of trying to redress that unfortunate oversight of 96 years ago, by the then hard pressed and inundated Imperial War Graves Commission.
MANKELOW, CHARLES. Private, TF/2331.
1/5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion (Territorial Force), Royal Sussex Regiment.
Born Frant, Sussex. Enlisted Wadhurst, Sussex.
Son of Edwin Thomas Mankelow and Harriet Ruth Mankelow (née Brooman) of Cemetery Lodge, Bayham Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Par de Calais, France. Panel 20.
At the time of the 1901 census Edwin Thomas Mankelow and Harriet Ruth Mankelow resided at 18, Bayham Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Mankelow lived at Cemetery Lodge, Bayham Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 56 year old Tonbridge, Kent native Edwin Thomas Mankelow, who was employed as the Sexton at the Cemetery. Charles was posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Force on Thursday 18 February 1915. His death was numbered amongst the 76 which were suffered by the 1/5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion (Territorial Force), Royal Sussex Regiment on Sunday 9 May 1915, of whom 73 are commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Par de Calais. One of the Mankelow children recorded by the census enumerator in 1911 as being 17 years old was Walter Mankelow, who was employed as a Printer Machine Minder, and is the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

MANKELOW, WALTER. M.M. Private, G/656.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died Saturday 7 October 1916.
Born St. Marks, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of Edwin Thomas Mankelow and Harriet Ruth Mankelow (née Brooman) of Cemetery Lodge, Bayham Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.
Walter enlisted in the army for three years on Monday 31 August 1914, at which time he stated that he was 20 years and 251 days old, and employed as a Printer. Walter was posted to serve in the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on Thursday 3 September 1914, and then remained in the same battalion until his death, having arrived on the Western Front for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Tuesday 1 June 1915. On Wednesday 18 August 1915, Walter was posted to serve at the 12th (Eastern) Division Headquarters which he joined in the field, and remained there until Wednesday 8 September 1915 when he rejoined the battalion. Walter left the battalion on Sunday 19 September 1916, when he was attached 37th Infantry Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division Headquarters for a week and then rejoined his battalion on Sunday 26 September 1916. The awarding of the Military Medal to Walter was published in The London Gazette dated Friday 11 May 1917. Walter’s father was sent the M.M. in the post on Thursday 13 December 1917. The 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) arrived in the Gueudecourt sector of the Somme battlefield on Wednesday 4 October 1916, in order to play its part in the ‘Battle of the Transloy Ridges’ as part of the overall
'Battle of the Somme,' and moved into the front line to the north of the village of Gueudecourt. As was the same situation which prevailed with many of the other British battalions on the Somme in 1916 at various times resultant of high casualty rates, at Gueudecourt the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) was barely 500 (all ranks) strong. The initial attacks of the battle had been put back for two days, and it was in worsening weather that the assaults on the enemy positions commenced. An enemy position named Ration Trench was assigned to Burton's battalion to attack and capture. Possible due to the two day delay was a contributory factor why German artillery activity had increased considerably over the same period. In addition to the increased enemy shelling, an exceptionally powerful and well positioned machine-gun defensive ring had been put in place by the Germans. To contribute to the problems faced by the British troops was that the enemy trenches were screened from direct artillery observation. Having been heavily shelled throughout the morning of Saturday 7 October 1916, the battalion had already suffered casualties prior to going over the top at 13.45 hours. More casualties were inflicted on the battalion as it attempted to carry out its allotted tasks, at which time most of the casualties were due to rifle and machine-gun fire. At great cost, the officers and other ranks of "C" Company on the left flank managed to advance a full 150 yards in the face of withering enemy fire, but were then stopped and later withdrew at nighttime under the cover of darkness. By the time that the remnants of the battalion were taken on by the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), some of the companies of Burton's battalion had been reduced to only fifty officers and other ranks. Of about 500 soldiers of 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) who had arrived at Gueudecourt only three days earlier, approximately 330 became casualties on Saturday 7 October 1916. A Captain, a Lieutenant and three Second Lieutenants were killed, as were 92 other ranks. A Captain and four Second Lieutenants were wounded, in addition to which at least 185 other ranks. Following his death Walter was initially posted as 'Missing,' but later the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes it was to be assumed that he had died on or after 7 October 1916.

**McCALL, WILLIAM JAMES THOMSON.** Corporal, 11039. Army Pay Corps. Died Tuesday 12 November 1918. Aged 35. Born Havant, Hampshire. Resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Brighty. Buried Royal Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: B. l. 184. At the time of the 1911 census, William was residing at 4, Nevill Terrace, Montacute Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and was employed as a Solicitor's Clerk. Head of the house was Williams' step-father, 69 year old Hockering, Norfolk native James Brighty, who was a Pensioned Railway Inspector, and Williams' mother was recorded by the enumerator as being a 60 year old native of Morice, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. William does not have a regulation pattern headstone, which also commemorates his mother, and his sister Agnes Mary McCall who was his senior and a native of Chelsea, London.
MOSS, PERCY. Driver, T/2091.
1/3rd Kent (Fortress Company), Royal Engineers.
Died at sea Thursday 28 October 1915.
Born and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent.
Son of David Moss and Elizabeth Mary Moss of 5, Warwick Cottages, Cemetery Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 23 to 25 or 325 to 328. and on the H.M.S. Hythe Memorial Plaque, St. Matthew’s Parish Church, Gordon Road, High Brooms, Royal Tunbridge Wells.
Percy was christened at Tunbridge Wells, Kent on Sunday 1 August 1897. At the time of the 1911 census, the Moss family resided at 5, Warwick Cottages Benhall Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Reading, Berkshire native David Moss who was a Gardener, and the then 14 year old Percy was recorded by the enumerator as being a School House Boy, and was a pupil at St. Mark’s School, Broadwater Down. He enlisted in the Territorial Force on Monday 17 May 1915, at which time he stated that he was employed by Mr. Henry Wood Johnson of The Hermitage, Forest Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Prior to his enlistment, Percy had been a member of the Choir at St. Mark’s church Broadwater Down, in addition too which he sometimes acted as an organ blower. Percy was a victim of the loss of H.M.S. Hythe, and for brief details about the loss of the ship, please also see the brief commemoration of Driver, Percy John Barton on pages 4 and 5 above.

NEWBOLD, PHILIP. Second Lieutenant.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Born Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Resided Kesima Colony, Kenya.
Son of Eleanor Isabel Newbold of “Imberley Lodge,” East Grinstead, Sussex, and the late William Newbold.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C, and on the Uppingham School Roll of Honour.
Philip was educated at Uppingham School, Rutland before going up to Oriel College, Oxford. At the time of the 1901 census he was recorded by the enumerator as being a 14 year old Boarder at Uppingham School, Rutland. By the time of the 1911 census, Philip had left the family home at 7, Broadwater Down Tunbridge Wells, Kent, where his 50 year old widowed mother Eleanor Isabel Newbold who was a native of San Francisco, California, U.S.A. was recorded by the enumerator as being the head of the house, and as being of Independent Means. Phillips’ late father William Newbold was a native of Coventry, Warwickshire. Philip was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on Friday 28 January 1915, as was published in The London Gazette dated Friday 12 May 1916. Following his death, Philip was initially posted as ‘Missing,’ but the Army Council subsequently made the decision that for official purposes, it was to be assumed that he had died on or after 13 July 1916. On some of the data checked by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, Philips’ date of death is recorded as 17 July 1916.
NEWCOMB, CHARLES STUART. Lieutenant.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Friday 5 April 1918. Aged 20.
Born Gravesend, Kent. Resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of James Henry Newcomb and Alice Mabel Stuart Newcomb (née Hargreaves) of Heatherlands, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: VI. A. 23.

At the time of the 1911 census, Charles’ parents and five of his siblings resided at “Heatherlands,” Forest Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Welling, Kent native James Henry Newcomb, who was the Managing Director of a Financial Company. Charles was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst as a Second Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Wednesday 16 August 1916, as was published in The London Gazette the previous day. He served on the Western Front as a Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) from New Years Eve 1917.

OLIVER, W. JAMES. Lance Corporal. Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), as he is commemorated on the Great War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mark, Broadwater Down, is probably in remembrance of the following local Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells Great War casualty:-

OLIVER, JAMES WILLIAM. Lance Corporal, 19096.
37th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Born and enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of Susan Oliver and the late James W. Oliver.

When the 1901 census was conducted, the Oliver family lived at 8, Birling Road, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells. Head of the house was 45 year old Mark Beech, Kent native James W. Oliver, who was an Own Account Jobbing Gardener. At the time of the 1911 census, the Oliver family still resided at 8, Birling Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 57 year old Lydd, Kent native Susan Oliver who was a widow, and employed as a School Caretaker. The then 19 year old James was employed as a Domestic Gardener.

PHILLIPS, HAROLD MORLEY. F.R.G.S. Private, TF/266376.
11th (Service) Battalion (1st South Downs), Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died between Thursday 21 March 1918 and Wednesday 3 April 1918. Aged 33.
At the time of the 1911 census, the Phillips family resided at Burwood, Wadhurst, Sussex. Head of the house was 54 year old Chelsea, London native Walter Phillips, who was a Piano & Music Dealer, and the then 26 year old Harold was
recorded as being employed as a Piano & Music Dealers Manager. The marriage of Harold’s mother to William John Norris was recorded in the Ticehurst, Sussex, Registration District during the second quarter of 1917. At the time of her death at the Cottage Hospital, Hawkhurst, Kent, the home address of 83 year old Elizabeth Louisa Norris was “Sunnymede,” Copthall Avenue, Hawkhurst, Kent.

PIGGOT, ARTHUR ALFRED. Second Lieutenant. B.A., LL,B Cantab. “C” Company, 13th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Died Sunday 26 September 1915. Aged 23. Only son of Joseph Alfred Piggot and Emily Piggot (née Houlton) of 20, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Par de Calais, France. Panel 20 as shown above. Arthur was born at Bedford, Bedfordshire on Sunday 18 October 1891. He was educated at Charterhouse School prior to going up to Pemroke College, Cambridge University in 1910. At the time of the 1911 census, the Piggot family resided at 44, Clapham Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire. Head of the house was 47 year old Maldon, Essex native Joseph Alfred Piggot who was recorded by the enumerator as being a Retired Bank Clerk, and 19 year old Arthur was recorded as being a Student. Prior to being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Northumberland Fusiliers on 19 September 1914, Arthur had served as Private, C/1080 in the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps. He had only served on the Western Front with the British Expeditionary Force from Thursday 9 September 1915. Arthur was recorded as being wounded and missing at Hill 60 on the morning Sunday 26 September 1915 during the ‘Battle of Loos.’ On Sunday 22 February 1920, Arthur’s father submitted an application to be sent the war medals of his late son, at which time Joseph Alfred Piggot was residing at 20, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

ROWLAND, WILLIAM. Private, 2262. 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died Monday 26 April 1915. Born Spetisbury, Blandford Forum, Dorset. Enlisted Hammersmith. Resided Wareham, Dorset. Son of John Roland and Annie Rowland. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 8. At the time of the 1911 census, the Rowland family resided at West Street, Bere Regis, Wareham, Dorset. Head of the house was 42 year old Hinton St. Mary, Dorset native John Rowland, who was employed as a General Labourer, and 16 year old William was employed in Domestic Service as a House Boy. William was posted to the Western Front for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Sunday 7 March 1915, whilst serving as a Private in the 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). No connection with Broadwater Down has thus far been established for William who is the sole matching CWGC casualty.
RYALL, ALBERT FORRESTER. Serjeant, 9261.
16th (Service) Battalion, Highland Light Infantry (2nd Glasgow).
Born Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Edinburgh, Scotland. Resided Loanhead, Midlothian, Scotland.
Son of John Forrester Ryall of 26, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and of the late and Mary A. Ryall
Buried Coxyde Military Cemetery, Koksiide, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: I. B. 1.

At the time of the 1911 census, the Ryall family resided at The Stables, 26 Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 56 year old Milton Abbot, Devon native John Ryall, who was employed a Coachman, and 18 year old Albert was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Chauffeur. Albert enlisted in the army on a Short Service Engagement of 3 years with the Colours on Saturday 12 September 1914, at which time he stated that he was 22 years of age, employed as a Chauffeur, and that he was born in the parish of St. Mark, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. He named his father as his next of kin, and also stated that his home address was 11, Woodbarn, Loanhead, Midlothian, Scotland. After being attested for service as a Private in the Highland Light Infantry, Albert was posted to the 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion of the regiment at Plymouth, Devon. He was appointed a Lance Corporal on Wednesday 17 February 1915, and was serving in the battalion when it moved back to Scotland and was stationed at Haddington, Edinburgh in May 1915. On Thursday 1 June 1915, Albert was posted as a Lance Corporal to the 11th (Service) Battalion, Highland Light Infantry for service with the British Expeditionary Force, and embarked at Folkestone for France where he joined the battalion in the field on Sunday 6 June 1915. On Friday 30 June 1916 whilst serving in “G” Company, 11th (Service) Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, Albert suffered as serious gunshot wound to his back. He was initially treated at the No.45 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, and then at the 33rd Casualty Clearing Station the following day. Albert was taken to the 3rd Stationary Hospital at Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais on Wednesday 5 July 1916, at which time a letter was sent to his sister Miss Rose Forrester Ryall at 6, Brook Street, Tavistock, Devon, who by then was Albert’s next of kin, as the death of their father 60 year old John Forrester Ryall had been recorded in the Ticehurst, Sussex, Registration District during the second quarter of 1915. The letter sent to Albert’s sister Rose was to inform her that he had been seriously wounded and that it would not be possible to visit him. Either due the fact that Rose had not notified the military authorities of her change of address and status, or the same had not been properly recorded by an army records office, resulted in another letter being sent to her, but as Mrs. Rose Forrester Cuddeford at Elfrida House, 2 Lifton Road, Plymouth, Devon. The marriage of Rose to Frederick Cuddeford was recorded in the Plymouth, Devon, Registration District during the first quarter of 1916. Albert was evacuated back to England from Boulogne-sur-Mer on Thursday 6 July 1916 on the 1767 ton Belgian hospital ship H.S. Jan Breydel, which prior to being used as a hospital ship was a Belgian Government owned
mail steamer. On Friday 7 July 1916, Albert was admitted as a patient at the 4th
Northern General Hospital, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, and was placed on the nominal
roll of the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. During the Great War
the 4th Northern General Hospital, Lincoln occupied the old buildings and fields
of the former Lincoln School which is now Lincoln Christ's Hospital School. It held
41 officer beds and 1126 other ranks beds, with over 45,000 men being treated
there during the war. Lincoln (Newport) Cemetery, near the hospital, contains
139 Great War burials. Albert remained at the hospital receiving treatment until
Thursday 2 November 1916. On being discharged from the hospital Albert was
granted a period of leave until Monday 13 November 1916, which he took at the
home of his sister Rose and her husband Frederick at Elfrida House, 2 Lifton
Road, Plymouth, Devon. Albert then served in the Edinburgh area in the 3rd
(Reserve) Battalion of his regiment until being posted back to serve in France,
where he arrived on Monday 8 January 1917, going to the 21 Infantry Base
Depot, Etaples, Pas de Calais the following day. From the Base Depot, Albert
was posted to the 16th (Service) Battalion, Highland Light Infantry (2nd Glasgow)
on Wednesday 24 January 1917, and joined the battalion in the field on Friday 26
January, remaining in the battalion until being numbered amongst the 9 other
ranks serving in his battalion that were killed in action on Monday 9 July 1917.

SOANE, NELSON. M.M. Corporal, 16696.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died Monday 17 September 1917. Aged 36.
Born Buxted, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of Thomas Soane of Rotherfield, Sussex, and of the late Mary Ann Soane
(formerly Taylor), (née Ford).
Husband of Elizabeth Harriett Soane (née Hall) of Town Row, Rotherfield,
Sussex.
Buried Windmill British Cemetery, Monchy-le-Preux, Par de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: I. E. 10.
Nelson married Miss Elizabeth Harriett Hall on Saturday 21 July 1906 at the
parish church of St. Denys, Rotherfield, Sussex. At the time of the 1911 census,
Nelson was recorded by the enumerator as being the head of the house at
Sharnden Lodge, Mayfield, Sussex and was employed as a Gardener. He
enlisted in the army on Thursday 25 May 1916 ‘For the Duration of the War,’ at
which time he stated that he was 35 years and 109 days old, employed as a
Gardener and that he resided at 36, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
ranking his wife of the same address as his next of kin. Having been placed on
the Army Reserve, Nelson was mobilized and attested for military service at the
Regimental Depot of the Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Maidstone,
Kent on Friday 21 July 1916 by Major (Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel) J. P.
Dalison of the Reserve of Officers, who was commanding the Depot. Nelson was
posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on New Years
Day 1916, as a member of “D” Company, 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own
(Royal West Kent Regiment), in which he then remained until his death. He
was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal prior to being appointed a (paid) Lance
Corporal on Monday 23 July 1917. On Thursday 9 August 1917 Nelson was
appointed to be an Acting Corporal; and to Corporal on Sunday 12 August 1917.
The award of the Military Medal to Nelson was published in The London Gazette
dated Friday 28 September 1917. His widow received the M.M. in the post on 6
April 1918 at which time she was residing at 53, Devons Road, Bexhill-on-Sea,
Sussex. Nelson’s 47 year old late mother Mary Ann Soane had died at Buxted,
Sussex on Saturday 24 September 1888, and was the first of the three wives of
his father Thomas Soane. Thomas died at Uckfield, Sussex in March 1919.

SUTER, ERIC GEORGE. Private, G/21792.
2/6th (Cyclist) Battalion, (Territorial Force) Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died Tuesday 29 October 1918.
Born Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Karachi 1914 -1918 War Memorial, Pakistan.
Unfortunately, as is the same situation with countless forms of commemoration to
the victims of wars, the Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent civic war memorial, has
been noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations to have a number
of incorrectly commemorated casualties on it, one of whom is Eric who has been
commemorated as G. SUTER. Soldiers Died in the Great War, records Eric has
having died, as opposed to having been killed in action or dying of wounds. The
G prefix on Eric’s Royal Sussex Regiment number, would tend to be indicative of
him having formerly served in one of the Home Counties Service Battalions.
SUTER, REGINALD OSBOURNE. Private, G/2274.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died Tuesday 20 February 1917 (Please see below). Aged 22.
Born enlisted and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of Egbert Charles Suter and Gertrude Lydia Suter (née Martin) of 1, Warwick Cottages, Benhall Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.
Reginald was born at Tunbridge Wells, Kent on Tuesday 9 October 1894. At the time of the 1911 census, the Suter family resided at 1, Warwick Cottages, Benhall Mill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Tortington, Worthing, Sussex native Egbert Charles Suter, who was employed as a Railway Guard by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company, and the then 16 year old Reginald was recorded as being employed as a Gardener. Prior to enlisting in the army for 3 years with the Colours on Friday 11 September 1914, Reginald had been employed by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company since Thursday 8 August 1912, and was employed as a Fireman. After serving at home, he embarked for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Monday 26 July 1915. On Sunday 3 September 1916 Reginald was awarded a Good Conduct Badge and pay increment in respect of same. There is a discrepancy appertaining to the date of Reginald’s death. Soldiers Died in the Great War records date of death as 18 February 1917, but his Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration shows date of death as being on 20 February 1917.

VAN DEN BERGH, JAMES HENRY. Lieutenant.
6th London Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Son of Henry Van den Bergh and Henriette Charlotte Van den Bergh (née Spanjaard) of 8, Kensington Palace Gardens, London.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Par de Calais, France. Bay 1, and on the East Ham United Synagogue Roll of Honour.
James was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 6th London Brigade, Royal Field Artillery with effect from Saturday 29 August 1914, as was published in The London Gazette on 28 August 1914. He served on the Western Front with the Royal Field Artillery from Sunday 16 March 1915, at which time he was a
Second Lieutenant. He was killed in action at Vimy Ridge, Pas de Calais, France. Initially James was posted as ‘Missing,’ but subsequently the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes it was to be assumed that he had died on or after 21 May 1916. He was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below, they being the only Commonwealth war casualties with the surname Van den Bergh. Henry Van den Bergh the father of James and Seymour was born at the Dutch town of Geffen on Saturday 6 September 1851. He married Miss Henriette Charlotte Spanjaard at the Dutch town of Borne on Monday 1 August 1887, which is the town where Henriette was born in 1868.

VAN DEN BERGH, SEYMOUR. Captain. Middlesex Hussars. 
Died Saturday 27 October 1917. Aged 27. 
Son of Henry Van den Bergh and Henriette Charlotte Van den Bergh (née Spanjaard) of 8, Kensington Palace Gardens, London. 
Also commemorated on the East Ham United Synagogue Roll of Honour. 
The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, University of Oxford, Beaumont Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 2PH, received a number of objects and paintings over a period spanning several years, which were very generously donated by the Van den Bergh family in memory of James and Seymour.

WHEATLEY, SYDNEY HOAD. Private, 42765. 
2/10th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Manchester Regiment. 
Son of George W. Wheatley and Elizabeth Esther Wheatley (née Hoad) of 36, Eridge Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, 
Husband of Lillian Daisy Wheatley (née Picknell) of 113, Framfield Road, Uckfield, Sussex. 
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 120 to 124 and 162 to 162A and 163A, and on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of Holy Cross, Uckfield, Sussex.
Formerly Private, G/33321, East Surrey Regiment. At the time of the 1891 census, the Wheatley family resided at 32, Eridge Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 33 year old Esher, Surrey native George W. Wheatley, who was employed as a Railway Porter. Sydney was recorded by the enumerator as being only a week old, and as such it would probably be fair to assume that the census address was also his actual place of birth. When the 1911 census was conducted, Sydney’s parents and his 24 year old sister Edith Hoad Wheatley were living at 36, Eridge Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Sydney married Kensington, Middlesex native Lilian Daisy Picknell in the parish church of Holy Cross, Uckfield, Sussex on Wednesday 15 April 1914. He enlisted in the army on Tuesday 23 November 1915 ‘For the Duration of the War,’ at which time he stated that he was 24 years and 10 months old, employed as a Railway Booking Clerk, and that he resided at 37, Sandgate Road, Preston, Brighton, Sussex. Having been placed on the Army Reserve, Sydney was Mobilized on Monday 19 March 1917 and attested to serve as a Private in the East Surrey Regiment. He joined the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment at Dover, Kent on Tuesday 23 March 1917. Sydney was posted to the 1st Battalion of his regiment on Tuesday 5 June 1917, and embarked at Dover, Kent the same day for service with the British Expeditionary Force. On Wednesday 20 June 1917 Sydney was transferred to the 2/10th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Manchester Regiment which he joined in the field, and remained in the same battalion until he fell on Tuesday 9 October 1917.

The Second World War
1939 – 1945

BEASLEY, KENNETH AUSTIN. Private, 6344899.
“D” Company, 4th Battalion, Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
Died Saturday 27 May 1940. Aged 19.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of William John Beasley and Florence Elizabeth Beasley of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Morbecque, Nord, France.
Pre war member of the Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment. On the day that Kenneth fell at Morbecque, “D” Company of his battalion fared badly when it was taken by surprise and pressed on all sides by enemy troops. In addition to those who were killed, several members of the company were wounded and others were captured. Only Lieutenant A.R.H. Waring (later Major) and 9 men succeeded in getting clear by swimming across the canal. Kenneth was numbered amongst the 17 deaths which were suffered by his battalion on the day that he fell, 11 of whom are at rest Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Morbecque, Nord, France. Another casualty is at rest at Lille Southern Cemetery, and the other 5 have no known graves and are commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial. A number of those wounded on Saturday 27 May 1940 later died.
HALL, KENNETH WILLIAM. C/MX 676156.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Lanka.
Son of William Ewart Hall and Daisy Hall of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Kenneth was serving as a Supply Assistant at the Royal Naval Shore Establishment H.M.S. Lanka, Ceylon when he died.

HEATHCOTE, GEOFFREY RONALD STONEHEWER. Lieutenant, 72474.
Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. Seconded to 10th Royal Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps.
Born India. Resided Kent.
Son of Lawrence Hector Mark Heathcote, I.S.E., and Edith Hilda Heathcote of “Topacre,” Forest Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 20.
Geoffrey was educated at Eastbourne College, Sussex. He had been serving as a Cadet in the Eastbourne College Contingent Junior Division of the Officers Training Corps, when he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion, The King’s Regiment on Wednesday 21 July 1937, as had been published in The London Gazette dated the previous day. Geoffrey’s father died at the Lonsdale Nursing Home, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent on Sunday 16 March 1949, at which time his home address was still at “Topacre,” Forest Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

HUTCHINSON, PATRICK STUART. Squadron Leader (Pilot), 34125.
No.210 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Tuesday 15 July 1941. Aged 27.
Only son of Major George Stuart Menteth Hutchinson and Sybil Hutchinson.
Husband of Barbara Joan Hutchinson of Therfield, Royston, Hertfordshire.
Patrick was the pilot of the R.A.F. Coastal Command Consolidated Catalina AH533 DA-G of No.210 Squadron, Royal Air Force which took off from R.A.F. Helensburgh, Scotland at 21.20 hours on the evening of Tuesday 15 July 1941.
The Catalina which Patrick was flying was normally stationed at R.A.F. Oban, Argyllshire, Scotland and it had been sent to R.A.F. Helensburgh for an overhaul. The maintenance work was completed, and the aircraft was to being ferried back to R.A.F. Oban. When the aircraft approached Oban it was found by the crew that the weather conditions were to poor to land safely, in trying to do so the aircraft had sustained a small amount of damage. Patrick and his co-pilot, 25 year old Pilot Officer (Pilot) Edward Ruxton Pinches, R.A.F.(V.R.) of Pachesham Park, Surrey had apparently decided to either re-try at their earlier landing attempt, or to land out at sea to await better inshore conditions. Whatever was decided the pilot turned onto a southerly course from Oban and while flying in low cloud the aircraft struck the North East side of Cruach na Seilcheig on the
northern end of Jura where it was destroyed by fire. When nothing had been heard from the crew of AH533 for some time, a search and rescue operation was mounted, and three Catalina’s of Patrick’s squadron took off at about 15.30 hours on the following day. Two of the searching aircraft returned having seen nothing, but the crew of the third aircraft, W8420 which was flown by Wing Commander Barrett, spotted the burnt-out remains of the aircraft on the hillside. Of the 8 men onboard the Catalina when it crashed, only Aircraftman J. Kelly survived. At the time of Patrick’s death, his address was The Haven, Oban, Argyllshire, Scotland. On Thursday 18 December 1941, Patrick’s wife gave birth to their daughter Noel.

MAYALL, DEREK JOHN. Major, 113631.
1/4th Battalion, King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.
Died Wednesday 16 August 1944. Aged 24.
Born Birmingham, Warwickshire. Resided Kent.
Buried La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres-la-Delivrande, Calvados, France.
Grave Ref: V. D. 5.
Also commemorated at Lancing College, Sussex, and at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge University.

John was born at Birmingham, Warwickshire on Saturday 29 November 1919. He was educated at Lancing College, Sussex where he was in Seconds House from September 1933 to July 1938. He was a member of the Athletics Team in 1937 and 1938 and held the Half Mile record in 1938. He was a member of the Running Team from 1935 to 1938 and was the Team Captain in 1937. At Lancing College, Derek was a Sergeant in the Officer Training Corps where he achieved Certificate A in 1937. He was appointed as a House Captain in 1938, and as Secretary of Toc H in 1936. On the completion of his studies at Lancing College he went up to Sidney Sussex College Cambridge University in 1938. Following the outbreak of the Second World War at which time he was living in Kent, Derek volunteered for officer training for which he was accepted. He was posted to train at the 164th Officer Training Unit, after which he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on Sunday 14 January 1940. He was serving in the 1/4th Battalion, King’s Own Yorkshire Light Infantry when it landed at landed at “Gold Beach” in Normandy on Saturday 10 June 1944. At the time of his death due to wounds on Wednesday 16 August 1944, Derek’s address was at St. Mark’s Vicarage, Broadwater Down, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

MITCHELL, DENIS ROY. Private, T/203875.
43 Reserve Motor Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Fred Percy Mitchell and Jessie Elizabeth Mitchell (née Fonner) of 35, Frant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Denis’s birth was recorded in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1919. He was numbered amongst those who died during the construction of the notorious Burma-Siam railway, which was built by Commonwealth, Dutch and American prisoners of war, of the Japanese. During its construction, approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died and were buried along the railway. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 civilians also died in the course of the project. The line, 263 miles in length was completed by December 1943. The graves of those who died during the construction and maintenance of the Burma-Siam railway (except for the Americans, whose remains were repatriated) were transferred into three cemeteries. Chungkai where Denis at rest was one of the base camps on the railway and contained a hospital and church built by Allied prisoners of war. The war cemetery is the original burial ground started by the prisoners themselves, and the burials are mostly of men who died at the hospital.

PALMER, IVAN OAKES. Aircraftman 2nd Class, 1637330. Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 81 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died Thursday 17 May 1945. Aged 40. Son of Fred Julian Palmer and Annie Palmer Husband of Evelyn Frances M. Palmer (née Lambert). Buried Madras War Cemetery, Chennai, India. Grave Ref: 9. A. 16. Also commemorated at Skinners School, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Ivan was born at Marylebone, London, and was baptized at the parish church of St. George, Bloomsbury on Wednesday 23 October 1904. At the time of the 1911 census, the Palmer family resided at 39, Little Mount Sion, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old Glapthorne, Oundle, Northamptonshire native Fred Julian Palmer, who was employed as a General Grocer. Ivan was educated at Skinners School, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. His marriage to Evelyn Frances M. Lambert was recorded in the Tonbridge, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1935.
PERCY ANDREWS  
Gunner R.F.A
FREDERICK ATKINS  
Pte. Royal Fusiliers
ERNEST BAKER  
Pte. Middlesex Regt.
PERCY J. BENTON  
Driver K.F. Engineers
MAURICE H. F. BERKELEY  
Major R.A.S.C.
THOMAS C. BISHOPP  
Pte. Northumberland Fusiliers
RICHARD BURTON  
Captain R.A.S.C.
ARTHUR F. CLARK  
Pte. R.M.A.
ALFRED G. DANN  
Lance Cpl. Royal Sussex Regt.
ALFRED FIELD  
Corporal R.W. Kent Regt.
CLAUDE FRY  
Stoker H.M. Submarine M.I.
JOHN R. GILBERT  
Driver K.F. Engineers.
R. NORMAN GORDON  
Captain The Border Regt.
LESLEY HICKS  
Signaller Essex Regt.
WILLIAM A. HYDER  
Pte. R.W. Kent Regt.
A. VERNON OLIVER-JONES  
Lieutenant R.E.C.
RALPH LIVESEY  
Sapper R.E.
CHARLES · D · MANKELOW
Pte. Royal Sussex Regt.
WALTER · J · MANKELOW · M.M.
Signaller R. W. Kent Regt.
WILLIAM · J · T · MCCALL
Corporal A.P.C.
PERCY · MOSS
Driver K.E. Engineers
PHILIP · NEWBOLD
Lieutenant R. W. Kent Regt.
CHARLES · S · NEWCOMB
Lieutenant The Buffs
W · JAMES · OLIVER
Lance Corporal R.W. Kent Regt.
HAROLD · M · PHILLIPS
Pte. Royal Sussex Regt.
ARTHUR · A · PIGGOT
Lieutenant Northumberland Fusiliers
WILLIAM · ROWLAND
Pte. Royal Fusiliers
ALBERT · F · RYALL
Corporal H.L.I.
NELSON · SOANE · M.M.
Corporal R.W. Kent Regt.
GEORGE · E · SUTER
Pte. Royal Sussex Regt.
REGINALD · O · SUTER
Pte. R.W. Kent Regt.
JAMES · H · VAN · DEN · BERGH
Lieutenant, R.F.A.
SEYMOUR · J · H · VAN · DEN · BERGH
Captain County of London Yeomanry
SYDNEY · H · WHEATLEY
Pte. Manchester Regt.
1939-1945

KENNETH A. BEASLEY
Pte. Royal West Kent Regt.
May 1940

KENNETH W. HALL
S/A Royal Navy
July 1945

G.R.S. HEATHCOTE
Lieut. Royal Armoured Corps
10th Royal Hussars
June 1942

PATRICK S. HUTCHINSON
Squadron Leader R.A.F
July 1941
1939-1945

DEREK J. MAYALL
Major K.O.Y.L.I.
August 1944

D. ROY MITCHELL
Pte Royal Army Service Corps
November 1943

IVAN O. PALMER
A.C. 2 Royal Air Force
May 1945