



The Buffs

(East Kent Regiment)

The Great War

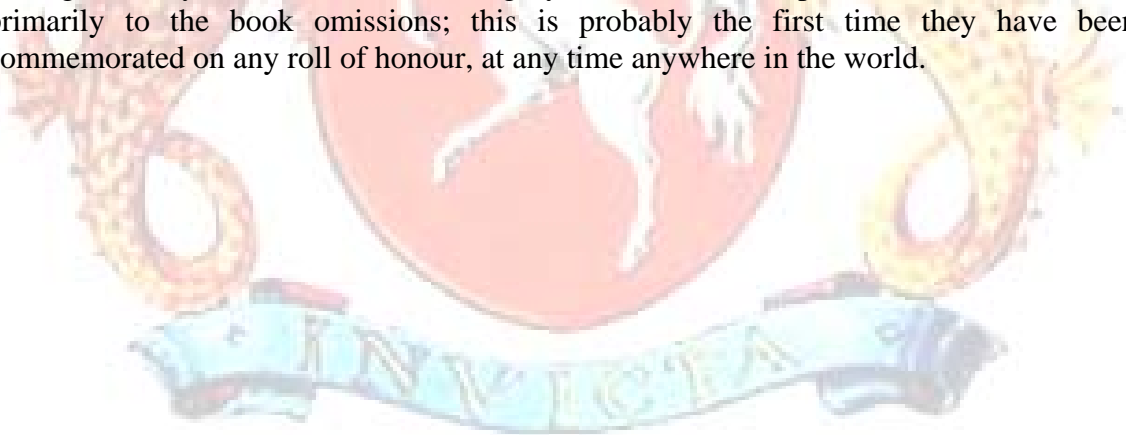
1914 -1919

ROLL OF HONOUR

By David W Hughes (2007)



Please note before viewing the following brief commemorations, re the use of abbreviations and other relevant points. IWGC is the Imperial War Graves Commission. CWGC is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It seems prudent to point out that where errors are found at any of the following individual commemorations by the CWGC, they are the result of the much earlier immediate post Great War years mistakes by the then Imperial War Graves Commission, which was faced with a massive task. ODGW is Officers Died in the Great War. SDGW is Soldiers (other ranks), Died in the Great War. MIC is Medal Index Card. Due to the now accepted and well documented fact that thousands of casualties have no form of CWGC commemoration, which when combined with those not entered in or on O/SDGW, and despite checking several official and unofficial data sources, in addition to fifty plus years of stored information (mostly jottings on bits of paper), it would obviously be both foolish and arrogant of the transcriber to assume that ALL members of the regiment who died in, or resultant of the Great War, who should be commemorated below have been. Needless to say that if anybody has any details of those inadvertently missed, PLEASE contact us. In much the same vein, if anybody has ANY additional details that could be used to formulate more comprehensive tributes to the regiments' Great War dead, please make contact, as all information in whatever form is always very welcome, useful, and on every occasion always genuinely much appreciated. It perhaps should also be noted that the commemorations for the members of the regiment who lost their lives post the Armistice of 11 November 1918, from war related deaths, were sadly not for the most part commemorated in the book 'Historical Records of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) 1914-1919' by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B., or on the regimental nominal roll. Regretably the same also is applicable to some of the officers and other ranks who died during the actual years of the conflict, particularly it would seem with 'Home Deaths,' which occurred within the United Kingdom and Ireland. By way of an additional illustration, a simple + has been added at all of the commemorations to denote those who have sadly fallen into the regimentally uncommemorated category. It has also been pointed out to us that due primarily to the book omissions; this is probably the first time they have been commemorated on any roll of honour, at any time anywhere in the world.



ROLL OF HONOUR

All Buffs Casualties whose surnames begin with the letter "A"

ABBOTT, Private, ARTHUR LEONARD VICTOR, G/9221, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 3 July 1916. Aged 26.

Born Brockley, Kent 29 July 1897. Enlisted London. Resided Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of the late Mr. John Octavius Abbot A.R.I.B.A., F.S.I. and Mrs. Mary Jane Abbott (née Ellis) of The Priory, Burbage Road, Herne Hill, London.

Husband of Millicent Abbott (née Mackett) of "St. Margarets," Oxenden Square, Herne Bay, Kent, and the father of Josephine Grace Abbott.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it.

Arthur is also commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

Educated at the Freemasons School, Wood Green, North London, Arthur had been an Authorised Clerk at the London Stock Exchange. As a member of the Territorial Force, Arthur had served for five years in the 21st (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (1st Surrey Rifles). On 6 October 1914 Arthur volunteered for service in the army, and was attested to the Army Pay Corps, in which he served until being transferred to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 25 January 1916, and went to France in April the same year. As the 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) rested in a reserve position in a field near the village of Millencourt on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, there was a mixture of excitement, apprehension and initial relief when news came through from the front that all was going well, and that "all objectives had been gained," but later came the news that the assault on Ovillers had failed. Resulting from the first days failure to capture Ovillers, the battalion moved at night to occupy trenches facing the village which was once again heavily bombarded by the artillery. Early on the morning of 3 July the battalion were ready to attack the enemy troops holding Ovillers, at about 0330 hours "A" Company moved forward in platoons, initially with few losses until reaching the German barbed wire entanglements, but later waves of "A" Company and those of "C" Company had a high casualty rate, those soldiers who did manage to actually get into the enemy trenches bombed the dugouts, the men who were being led with Second Lieutenant, Thomas C. Farmer carried out the bombing with noted accuracy and skill, which observers likened to a field-day work (training). Due to the high casualty rate being inflicted on the men carrying more hand grenades to the bombing parties, resulted in the supply of them running out, which in turn led to Second Lieutenant, Thomas Farmer carrying out a fighting withdrawal from the German trenches at Ovillers. 3 July 1916 cost the battalion 274 casualties in dead, wounded and missing. After the engagement the sad task of writing letters to relatives of those who died commenced. An officer of Arthur's battalion wrote the following to his brother "He was seen dead just by the enemy wire; but your brother must have done well to get so far-only a few entered the trench, and the fewer still that returned have received distinctions." Arthur married Millicent Mackett, the daughter of John Mackett at St. Margarets, Herne Bay, Kent on 18 July 1914. A brother of Arthur's also sadly lost his life during the Great War, he being:-

ABBOTT, Private, REGINALD FREDERICK WILLIAM, 2694.

1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company.

Died 16 June 1915. Aged 33.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 9.

ABBOTT, Private, **EDWARD**, G/3342, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 26 September 1915.

Born Watford, Hertfordshire. Enlisted Westminster, Middlesex. Resided Bushey, Hertfordshire.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

The 8th Battalion commanded by Colonel Frederick Charles Romer C.B., C.M.G., sailed from Folkestone, Kent and arrived in Boulogne, France on 1 September 1915 where it then spent two days, after which a move was made to billets at the little village of Maninghem near Etaples, Pas de Calais, to undertake divisional training. Edward's battalion remained at Maninghem until 21 September 1915, when a march was undertaken by the battalion to assemble at the concentration area in preparation for the 'Battle of Loos,' the battalion marched to Bethune arriving early in the morning on 25 September, at 1100 hours the battalion formed up for Colonel Romer to address the officers and other ranks, short but to the point he said, "I am not going to make a speech to you, but only ask you to remember that you are THE BUFFS." Following their Colonels 'speech' the battalion then made another move nearer to the battle heading for Vermelles to take part in an attack which was planned for later that night. Marching over difficult terrain their division reached positions in the area of Bois Hugo, Chalk Pit Wood, Chalet Wood and Hill 70 Redoubt, which were advanced positions that faced the German's second line. A proposed attack planned for that night was eventually postponed, and the battalion received fresh orders which stated that they were to take part in an attack the following morning. Just twenty four days after landing in France, and significantly with most of the officers and other ranks in the battalion never having been in action before, at 1030 hours on the following morning, orders were received by the 24th Division, (which included the 8th Battalion) for an attack to begin at 1100 hours, with the battalion detailed to attack the village of Hulluch. Set out below is the 8th Battalion War Diary entry for part of the 26 September 1915. "At 10.30 a.m. verbal orders arrived to prepare for an attack at 11 o'clock a.m. Almost at once the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of our trenches. At 11 a.m. an attack across open country commenced, the objective being a German position about a mile away. Artillery formation was adopted on leaving the trenches, but long distance rifle fire caused us to extend our lines almost immediately. The Buffs were supporting the West Kents. The advance was carried forward rapidly and by 11.30 a.m. the leading lines of the Buffs had arrived within 25 yards of the German barbed wire. No gaps could be observed in the wire entanglements. During the advance a heavy fire from machine guns on both flanks was encountered. At 1155 a.m. an order came down the line from the right to withdraw. The enemy's fire especially from our left flank became heavier and very considerable losses occurred. The Buffs were relieved during the night 26/27th 1915. Rested in a field close by Saily La Bourse." Because of the way that war diary entries are written, with their original intention not being for the benefit of amateur historians and the like, the above omits to adequately emphasize that when the battalion attacked at Hulluch, they had to cross a stretch of 'No Mans Land' approximately a mile wide, in tandem with the rest of the 72nd Brigade the battalion with

mounting casualties eventually managed to reach their designated objective, despite being constantly heavily enfiladed by well placed enemy machine guns, only to then find that the enemy wire was still mainly intact in front of it. The Division to the battalion's right was subsequently forced to withdraw, which resulted in the right flank being exposed to even more enemy attention primarily in the form of machine gun fire and Germans artillery shellfire, incredibly the 8th Battalion withstood the enemies superior firepower for a full four hours before inevitably being forced to withdraw, during which time more casualties were inflicted on The Buffs, as can be seen from the war diary entry were relieved that night and initially fell back to Noeux les Mines where they bivouacked in pouring rain. The casualties to the battalion resulting from its first significant engagement of the Great War were truly staggering, as they amounted to at least 24 officers and 610 other ranks killed, wounded or missing, of that number 2 officers and 158 other ranks died on the day of the engagement which was fought by the battalion on 26 September 1915. Inevitably a significant number later succumbed to their wounds, resultant of the action fought at Hulluch. Amongst the officers the battalion only had one young officer Second Lieutenant J. Vaughan that was not a casualty, subsequently he was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry when leading the other ranks remnants of the battalion from the battle.

ABBOTT, Lance Corporal, ERNEST WALTER, L/10279, 6th (Service) Battalion.
Died of wounds 1 May 1917. Aged 21.

Born Chilham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Faversham, Kent.

Son of Sarah Abbott of 4, Mersham Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, and the late Henry Abbott.

Buried Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. II. Q. 13.

Commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary of Charity, Faversham, Kent.

By virtue of the fact that SDGW shows regular soldier Ernest as having died of wounds, it has not been possible to enter here with any real degree of certainty where, when or how he had actually been mortally wounded. In view of the date of Ernest's demise it would seem likely that his wounding probably took place on 28 April 1917, at which time the 6th (Service) Battalion was holding the line at Monchy le Preux, Pas de Calais, having gone back into the line again having been rested for two weeks. All the four companies of Ernest's battalion were at the time under the command of Second Lieutenant's though one of them held the temporary rank of Captain. If the above date of his wounding is correct, Ernest would have received medical aid at Monchy le Preux, and then recovered through the medical evacuation chain, and probably died of his wounds whilst a patient at the 8th Casualty Clearing Station. The area around Duisans which is situated approximately six miles to the west of Arras was occupied by Commonwealth forces from March 1916, but it was not until February 1917, that the site of the cemetery where Ernest is at rest was selected for the burials of those who died at the 8th Casualty Clearing Station. Duisans British Cemetery is actually located in the village of Etrun, but takes its name from the nearer by village of Duisans. The day that Ernest died his battalion was out of the line resting at Noyelle and Duisan.

ABBOTT, Private, JACK STINNARD, G/15761, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died Monday 9 April 1917.

Enlisted Sheffield, Yorkshire. Resided Maidstone, Kent.

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

The following record the events of the day on which Jack died is as extracted from 'The History of the 12th (Eastern) Division in the Great War 1914-1918,' edited by Major-General Sir Arthur B. Scott, K.C.B, D.S.O., who for two and a half years had commanded the division. The book was compiled by the Reverend P. Middleton Brumwell, M.C., C.F., a popular Canadian Chaplain who served in the 12th (Eastern) Division, and was later awarded the C.B.E.

"Zero was fixed for Monday, April 9th, and sharp at 5.30am, the leading waves of the infantry advanced to the assault under cover of a creeping barrage, stated by all units to have been most effective. Owing to the suddenness of the attack many of the Germans were unable to emerge from their dug-outs, which had very narrow entrances, in time to oppose our advance. Resistance was rapidly overcome and the front system (black line), consisting of four lines of trenches, was occupied to time. The battalions which carried out this operation were the 6th Queen's (Rolls) and 7th East Surrey (Baldwin) of 37th, the 11th Middlesex (Wollocombe) and 7th Royal Sussex (Sansons) of 36th Brigade. The counter battery work had practically silenced the German guns, and the leading troops halted on the black line to clear up the captured ground, and allow the supporting battalions to pass through and form up for the second phrase. At 7.30 am the advance was continued by the 6th Buffs (Cope), 6th Royal West Kent (Dawson) of 37th, the 9th Royal Fusiliers (Overton), and the 8th Royal Fusiliers (Elliot-Cooper) of 36th Brigade, the creeping barrage again moving forward at 100 yards every four minutes. This further advance entailed the crossing of Scott's valley and the capture of Observation ridge, on the western face of which the German second system consisted of a series of entrenched works, heavily wired and strongly defended by machine guns and brave fighters. The capture of this position did not prove such an easy proposition as anticipated, which of two tanks detailed for rendezvous, and the other failed to cross our trenches. As a consequence the infantry had to do without their assistance. Some portions of this system were carried by the assault, but some offered considerable resistance, only to be overcome by outflanking movements, initiated by individuals, or small parties working in co-operation. Houlette and Holt works, however, held out. Much opposition was encountered on the extreme left from the position known as Feuchy Switch. Here the 8th Royal Fusiliers, moving in conjunction with a battalion of the 15th Division on their left, worked to the north and overcame it. This movement resulted in cutting off the retreat of the enemy holding Hart Work, and 200 prisoners were taken there, Second Lieutenant Beames being awarded the Military Cross for his bravery and leadership. During this operation Corporal G. Moakes crawled forward and, reaching a German trench, secured a prisoner and took him back to his commanding officer, who thereby gained valuable information as to the enemy's disposition, materially assisting in the success. On the capture of Heron, Hamel and Hart Works, the 9th and 8th Royal Fusiliers pushed on, gaining Habarcq and Hem trenches. Here their advance was delayed by machine gun fire from Observation Ridge. The 7th East Surrey, which had gained its objective in the first phrase, as consolidating its position, when Sergeant H. Cator of that battalion found his platoon was suffering severely by machine gun fire coming from Hangest Trench. On his

own initiative, and taking another man with him, he advanced across the open, The other man was killed after going about 50 yards, but Sergeant Cator, continuing by himself, picked up a Lewis gun and some drums of ammunition on his way, and succeeded in entering the northern end of the trench. Having discovered the position of the machine gun which was causing the casualties, he opened fire, eventually killing the whole team and the officer in charge, whose papers he afterwards brought in. He continued to hold that end of the attack until Sergeant Jarrott and a bombing squad arrived, and attacking the enemy in flank, drove them out. This action greatly assisted the advance of the Royal West Kent Regiment, which has been temporarily held up, and Sergeant Cator, for his deed of daring, received the Victoria Cross. Owing to the strong resistance met with, the blue line had not been completely captured in the scheduled time. Nevertheless, General Scott ordered the 35th Brigade to advance according to the plans laid down, considering its appearance on the battlefield would force the Germans, still holding out, to surrender. This brigade, which had been located in the cellars in Arras, proceeded through the tunnel to the caves, and thence, as the enemy's artillery fire on our trenches was negligible, it debouched and, moving over the top, closed up to the leading troops of the 12th Division. At 12.15pm, the 7th Norfolks on the right with the 5th Royal Berkshire echeloned on the left, followed by the 7th Suffolk and 9th Essex battalions, passed through the 37th and 36th Brigades. The 7th Norfolks (Walter) rapidly overcame the remaining opposition in Haucourt Trench and Houlette Work, and a platoon of "B" Company, 5th Royal Berkshire, outflanking Holt, that stronghold, with a garrison of thirty-five men with a machine gun, surrendered. Thus at 1.5 pm, the blue line was definitely in our possession. The real task of the 35th Brigade, the capture of the brown line, now commenced. There was no intervening system of trenches, but opposition was expected at Maison Rouge, and the enemy's batteries were known to be in the valley that had to be traversed. The plan was to capture Feuchy-Chapel Redoubt and its surroundings, and to pierce the line just west of Orange Hill. On the capture of the blue line the Germans, becoming disorganised, were caught on the run, and the 35th Infantry Brigade had the joy of seeing them retreating in disorder. Those overtaken were only too willing to obey instructions and move down the main road to Arras to report as prisoners. The 7th Norfolks pushed forward to level with the Bois des Boeufs, and Captain Gethin, giving the enemy no time to think, dashed on and, seizing the Maison Rouge, which was the completion of his task, continued until brought to a halt before Feuchy Chapel Redoubt. The 7th Suffolk (Cooper) and 9th Essex (Trevor) now proceeded to the final objective. The Essex gained Feuchy Chapel Redoubt, but the greater portion of this attack was stopped by Church Work, uncut wire, and machine guns. The tanks which had been detailed to assist in the capture of this position were out of action, two having been set on fire by the enemy's guns, and two having stuck in the mud. All attempts to cut the wire by hand and proceed were frustrated, and a line was taken up along the Feuchy Road, the 3rd Division on the right being held up in a similar manner. Meanwhile the 5th Royal Berkshire (Willan) advancing on the left, found itself in front of four German batteries of artillery, firing point blank at a range of about 400 yards. Undeterred, and if anything, enthused by the sight, the troops charged forward, and by means of short rushes and concentrated fire, reached the batteries, and eighteen field guns, four howitzers, and forty prisoners, were captured. On this occasion Lieutenants J. M. Reday and G. P. Debeno, C.S.M. Arthur Blake and Private McAllister distinguished themselves by their leadership and fearless

courage. So keen were the men that, with the assistance of a Royal Artillery officer, who accompanied the battalion, they manned the captured guns and opened fire on the retreating enemy. The attack continued towards Orange Hill, but was held up by the uncut wire, and finally the 5th Royal Berkshire took up a line on the Feuchy Road in continuation of the Essex.”

ABBOTT, Private, RICHARD WILLIAM, G/4189, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 August 1916. Aged 19.

Born, enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of William and Agnes G. Abbott of 35 St. Lukes Avenue, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon it. Regretably, Richard is **possibly** erroneously commemorated as W. Abbott, on The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), ‘Great War of 1914-1919 Nominal Roll’ of the war dead, when it was compiled following the cessation of hostilities, and as **William Abbott** in/on SDGW. The chain of events that led up to Richard’s death began on 6 August 1916, when plans were put in place for his battalion along with the rest of their brigade to take over frontline trenches between Guillemont and Deville Wood on the Somme, but as so often happened due to the ebb and flow of battle during the Great War, plans were altered at the very last moment, one of the resultant changes found the battalion on 9 August in reserve positions situated on the Carnoy to Montauban road, the following day several casualties occurred when British artillery fired shells which dropped short. On 12 August the battalion which was still near Carnoy was heavily shelled all day, but on that occasion by the enemy. During the night of 17 August the battalion moved forward under the cover of darkness to take up assembly points in readiness for an attack near Waterlot Farm, which had been a German strong point in their second line of defence situated between Longueval and Guillemont, which although it was called a farm, in fact was a sugar refinery that had been captured from the Germans in mid July 1916. The battalion was in action all day, with the location known as Machine Gun House eventually falling to the officers and men of “A” Company, the northern end of a trench complex named ZZ Trench was taken by “C” Company, although in terms of objectives being captured etcetera the day was a success for the battalion but it had been costly as casualties that day were 1 officer and 60 men killed plus 6 officers and 297 men wounded. Richard Abbott was probably amongst the 60 men who were recorded as killed.

ABBOTT, Private, VICTOR FRANK, G/14138, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Killed in action 17 June 1918. Aged 19.

Born and resided Farnborough, Wantage, Berkshire. Enlisted London.

Youngest son of Albert and Laura Kate Abbott of The Lodge, Farnborough, Wantage, Berkshire.

Buried Contay British Cemetery, Contay, Somme, France. Grave Ref. VIII. A. 30.

It would appear that Victor was probably numbered amongst those members of his battalion who lost their lives, when an artillery shell exploded nearby their position. Those who were killed by the shell explosion are at rest in the seven adjacent graves (VIII. A. 25-31) at the Contay British Cemetery.

ABEL, Private, CHARLES WILLIAM, G/22404, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 22 March 1918. Aged 19.

Born Catton, Norwich, Norfolk. Enlisted and resided Norwich, Norfolk.

Son of Mrs. B. Abel of 124, Spencer Street, Norwich, Norfolk.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 16.

The Pozières Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave, and who died on the Somme battlefields from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names, The Durham Light Infantry with approximately 600 names, the Machine Gun Corps with over 500, The Manchester Regiment with approximately 500 and The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery with over 400 names. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) fallen that are commemorated on the memorial, number 112, and are all named on Panel 16. The part played by Charles's battalion on the day prior to his death, it being the first day of the 1918 German Spring Offensive, was not only heroic but quite literally lifesaving. As the numerically superior German army pressed home their attacks, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was the only unit of the British 3rd Corps that held its ground in the forward zone of the battle area, when it was attacked north of Travecy. In making the determined stand in the face of overwhelming odds, the battalion enabled other units in the area to successfully fall back, regroup, and reorganize behind the more easily defensible positions behind the Crozat Canal near Vendeuil to the south of Saint-Quentin. On 21 March 1917 the battalion was defending a front of almost five miles in conjunction with two other 18th (Eastern) Division infantry battalions, namely the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. As the day wore on the Germans captured Vendeuil, but the soldiers garrisoning the old French fort to the west of Vendeuil managed to hold on to their position. The 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) tenaciously held on to the village of Moy, until an enemy breakthrough to the north. Some British units managed to fight on until about 1630 hours, with the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment Berks holding Alaincourt. Unfortunately the supporting Divisional Field Artillery was overrun in the fog, and captured, as German Storm Troopers managed to slip past the defended posts. The 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) withdrew to a small wood to the south of their original defensive positions at 1400 hours, once their consolidation work quickly got underway, mainly in the form of constructing trenches and making suitable shell holes more secure and defensible, all of which was carried out by men who had been deprived of sleep, had been engaged in heavy fighting when outnumbered, and having not eaten. Due to being sent to assist the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment), it was not until about 1500 hours on 23 March that those who were able so to do, occupied the positions which had hastily been constructed under duress two days previously.

ABEL, Private, RICHARD, G/8373, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 7 October 1916.

Born South Bank, Yorkshire. Enlisted Stokesley, Yorkshire. Resided Eston, Yorkshire. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it. Regretably, Richard is not named amongst the 132 Great War casualties who are commemorated on the Eston, Normanby and Barnaby Moor, Yorkshire, civic war memorial, which not surprisingly has a large proportion of those who are commemorated, died whilst serving either in the Yorkshire Regiment, or in the Northumberland Fusiliers. Richard was probably amongst the 8 officers and 121 other ranks that lost their lives in the 6th (Service) Battalion on 7 October 1916 during the Battle of the 'Transloy Ridges.' The battalion total casualty roll for the day numbers 368, including their Medical Officer, Captain Wilfred Pagen R.A.M.C., who is also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. What follows is the War Diary entry for the day: - "Quiet morning. At 1.30 p m the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire and shrapnel barrage on the front line. At 1.45 p m the attack commenced. Very heavy M.G. fire was opened, which held up "C" Company on the right. "A" and "B" companies reached the 1st objective (Rainbow Trench) with fairly heavy casualties but on advancing from 1st to 2nd objectives were completely held up with M.G. fire. Twenty men of "C" Company succeeded in getting into the German trench, with troops from the 61st Brigade, and advanced with them. The 1st objective was held until 12 midnight when the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Queen's." Captain J.C. Page, the only officer of the 6th (Service) Battalion who was not either killed or wounded on 7 October 1916, led just forty other ranks from the field of the 'Battle of the Transloy Ridges, and was later awarded the Military Cross.

ABRAHAM, Private, WILLIAM, G/10251, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 November 1916. Aged 42.

Born, enlisted and resided Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.

Son of William Abraham of Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.

Husband of Eliza Abraham of Newtown, Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.

Buried Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. IX. A. 23.

Commemorated on the Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1881 census the Abraham family resided at Rookery, Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire. William Abraham (senior), William's father, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer was the Head of the house.

WILLIAM ABRAHAM. Aged 35. Born Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.

CHARLOTTE ABRAHAM. Aged 32. Born Great Catworth, Huntingdonshire.

JOHN H. ABRAHAM. Aged 8. Born Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.

WILLIAM ABRAHAM. Aged 5. Born Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.

ANNIE E. ABRAHAM. Aged 2. Born Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire.

Although the day on which William lost his life is recorded as the last day of 'The Battle of the Somme 1916,' as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig. In the case of the 7th (Service) Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, as by days end over 60 of the battalion personnel had been killed, most of whom fell during an attack on a enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina, and from which the cemetery where William is at rest takes its

name. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat overshadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a Private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion's of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.

ABRAHAMS, Private, ERNEST WALTER, G/22504, 6th (Service) Battalion.
Died 1 July 1918. Aged 20.

Born Lambeth, Surrey. Enlisted Wandsworth, Surrey. Resided Tooting, Surrey.
Son of Walter and Sarah Abrahams of 42, Wimbledon Road, Garratt Lane, Tooting, London.

Buried Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Doullens, Somme, France.
Grave Ref. I. N. 13.

Due to the fact that Ernest is recorded as having died of wounds, it has not been possible to add any additional brief data appertaining to how, when or where for certain, that he was actually mortally wounded. Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension where Ernest is at rest, was opened in March 1916 and used until March the following year. It was used again from March to October 1918. In most cases the burials were carried out from casualty clearing stations and from June to August 1918, from the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital, the latter possibly being where Ernest succumbed to his wounds whilst receiving treatment as a patient there.

A'COURT, Private, LEONARD PERCY FRANK, G/22012, 6th (Service) Battalion.
Killed in action 23 May 1918. Aged 18.

Born and resided Addlestone, Surrey. Enlisted Guildford, Surrey.
Son of Frank and Cecilia Mary A'Court of 10, Australian Cottages, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.

Buried Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet, Somme, France. Grave Ref. II. M. 10.

Leonard is the first named casualty of the Great War, of those who are commemorated on the Addlestone, Surrey, civic war memorial which is located in Victory Park, Addlestone, Surrey. After being conscripted into the army, Leonard reported to army barracks at Guildford, Surrey, where he was attested to serve in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Following his basic training, Leonard was amongst a draft of other ranks that were sent to

France during May 1918. When the 6th (Service) Battalion relieved the 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, at Mailley Wood, Mailley-Maillet on the Somme on 20 May 1918, it was Leonard's first tour of duty in the trenches of the Western Front. After checking various data in an effort to try and ascertain how Leonard had actually died, it would seem likely that he, and Private, William Henry Brodie from Chatham, Kent who is at rest in the adjacent grave to Leonard, were probably killed by enemy shellfire. As the 6th (Service) Battalion war diary entry for 23 May 1918 shows "Stand to 3.a.m. Socks changed. Night quiet. Fine. Apart from occasional shelling of front and support lines the day was quiet." Leonard and William were the only two other ranks deaths in their battalion, which are recorded as having been killed in action on 23 May 1918. Like countless other men researched and transcribed over the years, Leonard was numbered amongst those who lost their lives soon after actually going into either the trenches, or whilst taking part in the respective casualties first engagement. As can be seen above, Leonard was killed only three days after only his first day in the trenches.

ACKERMAN, Lance Corporal, LEON LORDEN, G/5053, 7th (Service) Battalion.
Died 1 July 1916. Aged 32.

Born and resided Lynsted, Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent.

Son of Thomas Lumbley Ackerman of "Hope Villa," Lynsted, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, Leon being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon it, Leon is also commemorated on the Lynsted, Sittingbourne, Kent civic war memorial.

On the first day of the Battle of the Somme the battalion was located in La Pree Wood near Carnoy, waiting to take part in an attack by their division (18th Division) on a sector extending from east of Mametz and to the west of Montauban, as part of the 55th Brigade they were to be in brigade support of the leading two battalions, they being the 7th Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), and the 8th Battalion the East Surrey Regiment, in reserve were the 7th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Moving forward from the wood at exactly 0700 hours, prior to zero hour which had been set for 0730 hours, the battalion and the rest of their brigade was under orders to attack an enemy trench complex located approximately 200 yards north of the Fricourt to Montauban road (D64), as was normal practice with a supporting battalion during set-piece assaults, the battalion was assigned several different tasks during and following the main attack. Led by Second Lieutenant V.G.H. Tatam, two platoons of "B" Company were ordered to clear the enemy from mine craters at Carnoy, which had been created prior to zero hour, two of which had been detonated at 0727 hours which were quickly defended by enemy soldiers, the operation clearing the mine craters took 6 hours to accomplish which gives a fair indication of the resistance encountered by the two platoons, other members of the battalion were engaged in mopping up operations, that including dealing with enemy soldiers who had evaded the attention of the leading wave of troops, including taking prisoners and attended to the wounded of both sides, for his input during these difficult tasks Second Lieutenant Tatam was awarded the Military Cross. All of "C" Company was detailed to go to the aid of the East Surrey's, after which "A" Company personnel also went to assist, at around midday, half of "D" Company were called forward to help the Queen's in capturing its objective, which was eventually

achieved but one of those lost was Captain Gerald T. Neame, the officer commanding "D" Company who is buried in Delville Wood Cemetery at Longueval.

ADAM, Captain, ALAN GORDON ACHESON, 5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 21/22 January 1916. Aged 28.

Born 6 July 1887, West Malling, Kent.

Son of the late Doctor James Adam M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. and Edith Emma Adam (née Drew) of Quarry Down, Hythe, Kent. Formerly of Malling Place, West Malling, Kent. Husband of Victoria Marjory Melville Adam (née Shaw), New Victorian Club, 30A, Sackville St., Piccadilly, London. (3rd daughter of William Shaw of Ealing, London).

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XVII. J. 12.

Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque at the South East Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent, Alan's name also appears on page 511 of the University of Cambridge War List 1914-1919. Alan was educated at Marlborough College, Wiltshire, and at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, before entering the South East Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent in October 1912, where he remained until July 1913, having been awarded a college Diploma. Alan had practised as a Solicitor at Cranbrook, Kent, where in 1911 he joined the Territorial Force, enlisting in the 5th (Weald of Kent) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). On the 22 January 1914, Alan was promoted to a Lieutenant, and on 29 October 1915 he was promoted to Captain. Alan Adam and Victoria Shaw married 8 November 1915, in the Cathedral of Bombay, India. Mentioned in Dispatches 20 October 1916, and was also recommended for the award of the Distinguished Service Order. Complying with his orders received from the ever optimistic Sir John Nixon, who was the regional British Commander in Chief, General Sir Fenton J. Aylmer V.C., continued with his increasingly unsuccessful operation to press on, in the attempts to relieve the beleaguered troops at Kut-el-Amara, who were commanded by General Sir Charles Townsend, C.B., D.S.O. In addition to being outnumbered approximately three to one when engaging the enemy soldiers of the Ottoman Empire, the enemy troops were not the only hazards that had faced the 5th (Territorial Force) Battalion of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and the other troops of General Aylmer's relief force as it attempted to force its way up the river Tigris towards Kut-el-Amara during January 1916. Compounding the problems faced at that time by the relief force was the most appalling weather conditions, which consisting of heavy rain and high winds, it being the local flooding season, it was humid with dense mist during the hours of daylight, but at nighttime the temperature plummeted below freezing. Casualties of various categories amongst the relief force were not solely resultant of engagements with the Turkish soldiers, as a significantly high proportion of deaths and other removals from General Aylmer's fighting strength, was as the result of illnesses and diseases. Only a mile or so from both sides of the river was marshy ground which the Turkish army had fully taken advantage of as part of a defensive system, by constructing several lines of entrenchments. The entrenchments were set out one behind the other, extending from the river on both sides to the Suwaikiya marshes. The first significant location of the well constructed enemy lines of defence were at Umm-el-Hanna, next was those were at Falahiyeh, followed by Sannaiyat, and behind all of these was the long entrenchment of Es Sinn. On 21 January 1916 General Aylmer ordered an attack on Umm-el-Hanna, which was carried out by troops that were not numerically sufficient in strength, due to

the lack of available personnel. The attack took place following the small but costly gains of the 'Battle of the Wadi' on 13 January 1916, when the force had been repulsed, and had incurred some 1,600 casualties amongst the already inadequate relief force, and costing the life of battalion member, Private Augustus W.L. Lovell from Goudhurst, Kent. Alan died during an engagement which is now remembered as the 'Battle of the Hanna,' it effectively commenced at midday on 20 January 1916 when the Turkish defences at the Hanna were bombarded for a duration of twenty minutes, and were again subjected to shelling the following morning. The artillery bombardments was from both river banks, and from gunboats on the Tigris, during which time approximately 12,000 artillery rounds were fired. Faced with pitifully few options, General Aylmer committed his main infantry attack on a very narrow front less than a mile across, with no man's land some 600 yards deep, it got under way at 0745 hours, it being about half an hour after the cessation of the artillery bombardment. As the attacking force moved nearer the enemy, Turkish troops that had suffered remarkably few casualties resulting from the shelling, rose in the mist to man their trenches, and from that time General Aylmer's infantry was cut down in swathes, with very few men reaching their allotted objectives. Due primarily to the heavily saturated soil, plus the shelling and losses among the operators, the field telephone system broke down almost immediately, leaving Brigade, Division and Corps completely at a loss as to know what was actually occurring amongst the assaulting troops. Although a number of different orders were issued to reorganize and renew the attack, due to the appalling weather and with the chaos which ensued in the front lines, no further effort was made. The following morning, General Aylmer asked the Turkish commanders for a six hour truce, to allow for the collection of the wounded, and to be afforded the opportunity to bury those who had fallen. Instantaneously as a White flag was raised, Arabs swarmed out from the Turkish lines, and began to rob the dead and wounded of their rifles, other equipment, and personal possessions, at which time many of those who lay wounded and defenseless were killed by the scavenging Arabs. Turkish officers, to their credit, were eventually able to put a stop to the heinous activities of their Arab allies. Resulting from the combined efforts of the Ottoman soldiers and the Arabs, British losses at the 'Battle of the Hanna,' amounted to about 2,700 killed and wounded. Included amongst those who died on 21/22 January 1916, in addition to Alan, was a brother officer in his battalion, 45 year old Lieutenant Joseph Thorp Waite, and at least twelve other ranks. Many publications have been written about the 'Battle of the Hanna,' and one of the commentators states the following: - "In any history of sufferings endured by the British Army, the collective misery of the night of 21st January 1916 is probably without parallel since the Crimea." Whilst clearly the opinions of one person and with the passage of time not exactly correct, it does sum up what was the opinions of many people in times past.

ADAMS, Private, ARTHUR CHARLES, G/21768,
"A" Company, 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion.
Died of wounds 14 August 1918. Aged 29.
Born, enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of James and Phoebe Adams of 4, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref. III. B. 25.

Formerly Private, G/31388, Essex Regiment. Arthur was amongst the officers and other ranks that had joined "A" Company after 1 March 1917. A Yeomanry veteran of the Palestine campaign, Arthur succumbed to his wounds whilst a prisoner of war, and was probably wounded and captured on 12 August 1918. It had become apparent to the allies as they advanced, that the German army was still in strength as it retreated, but was wavering all along the line. Of relevance regarding the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion in the second week of August 1918, was the events taking place around Calonne-sur-la-Lys near the Lys Canal. Commencing at 2130 hours on the night of 12 August 1918, an attempt to try and ascertain the enemies' strength was carried out by Arthur's battalion in total darkness, over difficult terrain that was a mass of shell-holes. Although the actual attempted advance failed, it did allow valuable information to be gleaned regarding the enemy strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately the battalions' opposition strengths far outweighed its weaknesses, with an unexpected plethora of machine guns still in evidence, which were manned by a far greater number of enemy soldiers than had been envisaged. Prior to breaking off the engagement, the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion suffered at least eight other ranks deaths on the night of 12/13 August 1918, in addition to which were several woundings, and seven men reported as missing, one of the latter being Arthur.

ADAMS, Private, ERNEST CHARLES, G/4851, 2nd Battalion.
Died 3 May 1915. Aged 21.
Born St. John's, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Amelia Adams.
Husband of Alice Maud Bessant (formerly Adams) of Government Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hampshire.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, and on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.
On 1 May 1915 Ernest's battalion had a fresh draft of other ranks join it in Belgium direct from England, who due primarily to time constraints were not initially allotted to the different companies within the 2nd Battalion, and it was decided to locate the new men in a new support trench in front of a wood. All of the positions occupied by the battalion were subjected to an extraordinary amount of enemy shellfire the day after the arrival of the fresh draft, with numerous casualties being inflicted on the battalion. Several commentators have made very similar comments when referring to the days' events, along the lines of the British artillery guns being virtually powerless to offer support and return shellfire onto the German artillery gun emplacements. Many of the same commentators, and also probably of more important significance and relevance, is some of the correspondence which was written by some of the survivors who had served

in the battalion during late April and early May 1915, with the writers of same commenting about not getting artillery support due to the lack of the gunners ammunition. Many of the gunners also became casualties, as the direct result of being fired upon by enemy field guns. During the hours of darkness on the night of 2/3 May the intensity of the German shelling subsided, but at first light on the morning of Monday 3 May 1915, the artillery bombardment of the battalion positions was once again renewed. Throughout the whole of the day on Monday 3 May the enemy guns continued to fire at will, and as on the previous day, the doubtless frustrated British gunners were unable to offer all but a token reply. During the morning 38 year old Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon who was commanding at that time, reported many casualties, and that the trench parapets had been blown in and that the situation was critical. Later it became even worse, with the bombardment being so rapid as to being likened to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire. One of the trenches held by the battalion called D.5, was rushed by enemy infantry, but it would seem that none of the members of "C" Company who had been ensconced in the trench, were at that time in a position to offer any form of resistance during the German assault. Captain L. Howard Smith, Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, and approximately eighty other ranks had formerly occupied D.5, but had all been killed or wounded, and all were later reported as missing. At the time of Ernest's death, there were no communication trenches in common use, and as such the parties of soldiers of varying sizes, were to all intents and purposes isolated and cut-off from help and/or support once in place in the allocated trenches, or other forms of defensive cover such as shell holes, the reason being that as the engagements raged, it would have been far too hazardous to cross above ground between the trenches. Probably due to the fact that D.5 fell to the enemy, who had also possessed woods located behind that particular trench complex, it appears to have had the knock on effect of another trench (D.4), also being captured by enemy infantry. Following the capture of D.5, by the enemy soldiers, D.4 was then subjected to fire by the Germans, who had taken over the occupancy of the former 2nd Battalion trench. Compounding the perilous position faced by the members of the battalion in D.4 was the enemy firing coming from the nearby wood in the enemies' hands. Captain Houblon, and a Lieutenant Sharp along with other what remained of "D" Company, and a few stragglers made gallant efforts to remain in trench D.4, but resulting from the firing coming in from both sides, their position became virtually un-defendable, necessitating a withdrawal along the trench line, a maneuver that was conducted with commendable steady order and control. To assist with the final withdrawal from D.4, at great risk to themselves, covering fire was provided by Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, and by Private, 7852, Frederick Campbell who were both members of "C" Company, miraculously both of whom managed to extricate themselves from the trench whilst under heavy fire. Although he was wounded during the fierce engagement, Lieutenant Sharp and the survivors of Captain Houblon's party eventually managed to reach trench D.3, and later reached D.1, which was held by Captain Barnard with "A" Company. A small party of members of the battalion led by Second Lieutenant, Ellis Brockman, Backhouse, and a company of soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), led by Captain R. Ford, did however manage to tenaciously hold on to a new support trench, during which time they were subjected to horrendous enfilade fire from enemy heavy howitzers and other artillery pieces. In much the same way that the earlier withdrawals had been steadily conducted, the battalion later moved back to

bivouacs located in a wood near Poperinghe, taking with it all the wounded that could be moved, spare ammunition, tools, and equipment being taken with the battalion. Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and received his commission. The relevant London Gazette entry for his D.C.M., dated 30 June 1915, reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 3rd May 1915, in holding on to a trench to the last, covering the retirement of his men to another position. The enemy, of whom he killed many, were only yards away." Frederick Campbell who also made the heroic rearguard stand with Ernest G. Port D.C.M., apparently was not even Mentioned in Despatches, or "B" for Record, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers, and served as a Serjeant in a Railway Company. Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, was later promoted to Captain and became an Adjutant, Captain L. Howard Smith, was later promoted to Major, and Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon, who was a son of Colonel George Archer Houblon, was also promoted to the rank of Major, and was attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Major Henry Houblon later inherited the Hallingbury Place Estate, Essex which had been used extensively by the British army during the Great War, and offered it on lease, but possibly resultant of the prevailing economic climate which prevailed at that time no one came forward, and eventually it was put up for sale. In October 1923, the great house was demolished, and the materials and contents put up for sale and the estate broken up. Due primarily to the fact that Ernest had not been an officer, it has not been possible thus far to be able to ascertain how, when, or where he actually died, during the somewhat one-sided engagement that was fought by the 2nd Battalion on 3 May 1915, which I know to have cost the lives of at least 144 other ranks. It is particularly regrettable that the names etcetera, of many of the men who had joined the battalion as members of the drafts, that had been posted to the battalion on 30 April & 1 May 1915, were initially not known, and as such it would probably be fair to assume that in many cases that unfortunate status is still applicable at this point in time (June 2004). It has also been frustrating to have not been able thus far, to ascertain the time amount of time that Ernest had spent serving in the battalion, or if was of only less than a week, which would be applicable to those who joined via the last two drafts to the 2nd Battalion.

ADAMS, Private, FRANK, G/15533, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died of wounds 2 December 1916.

Born and resided Oldham, Lancashire. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Rumaucourt Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. 36.

Formerly Private, 2224, 3/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion.

Because Frank was not an officer, combined with the fact that his SDGW entry records him as having died of wounds, it has not been possible to establish for certain when, where or how he was mortally wounded. Although all data checked indicates that Frank was the sole member of his battalion to die on 2 December 1916, it does not mean of course that his was the only death attributable to the 7th (Service) Battalion, as the result of the action that had taken place on the day that he had been wounded.

ADAMS, Private, FREDERICK GEORGE, G/708, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Killed in action 25 July 1915. Aged 18.

Born, enlisted and resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of F. W. and Mary E. Adams of 28, Princes Street, Margate, Isle-of-Thanet, Kent.

Buried Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.
Grave Ref. III. B. 5.

Commemorated on the Margate, Isle-of-Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.

The 22 members of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) interred in the above cemetery, who are all at rest in (Plot III), were all members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who died between July and September 1915. Only two other regiments have more of their fallen buried in the cemetery than the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), they being the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment with 85 casualties, and the 2nd Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment 45. It would appear that Frederick was particularly unfortunate to have lost his life on 25 July 1915, as his is the only other rank death thus far noted, as having taken place in the 6th (Service) Battalion on that date. When taken in the overall context of the Commonwealth troops Great War casualties' figures, July was one of notably low numbers for the 12th (Eastern) Division, to which Frederick's battalion belonged. Glancing the numbers shown in the History of the 12th (Eastern) Division, in the Great war, revealed 7 officers deaths, and 64 other ranks deaths, woundings recorded were 18 officers and 413 other ranks.

ADAMS, Private, JOHN T. L/6928, 1st Battalion.

Died of wounds 1 July 1915.

Born Eastcliffe, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Cemetery, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Grave Ref. AB. 155.

+ A regular soldier, John has a Medal Index Card entry indicative of overseas active service with the regiment during the Great War. Despite having been a regular soldier serving in the regiment, unfortunately like a not insignificant number of other Buffs, Great War casualties, who lost their lives either in, or resultant of war service in the regiment, (predominately in the United Kingdom), John was not commemorated on 'The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) Nominal Roll of war deaths for the Great War 1914-1919,' when it was compiled following the cessation of hostilities. That error is also reflected by the omission of his and many other of the war dead not being recorded on the roll of honour in the book by oft referred to written by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B. It is also of course very regrettable that because John is recorded as having died of wounds, and was not an officer, it has not been possible thus far to add at this brief tribute to him, exactly where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

ADAMS, Private, WILLIAM, T/20242, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Killed by explosion Sunday 2 April 1916. Aged 48.

Born Skelmersdale, Lancashire. Enlisted Folkestone, Kent. Resided Cheriton, Kent.

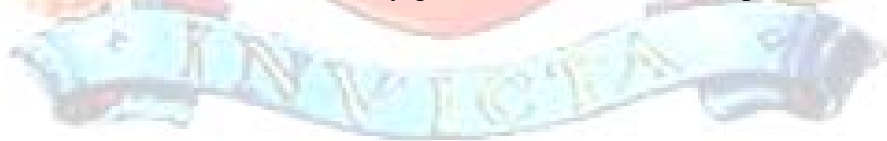
Son of George and Harriet Adams.

Husband of Kate Jane Adams.

Buried Faversham Borough Cemetery, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham, Kent.

Grave Ref. Faversham Explosion Plot.

William had enlisted in the army, and also served using the surname **CATLOW**, and is the surname with which he was commemorated on The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), 'Great War of 1914-1919 Nominal Roll' of the war dead, when it was compiled following the cessation of hostilities. SDGW entry records his place of birth as being at Bootle, Lancashire. CWGC commemoration details are as briefly commemorated above. William was amongst the 5 men of his battalion who were killed along with 107 other people by an explosion of 15 tons of TNT and 150 tons of Ammonium Nitrate, which blew up when some empty sacks caught fire at 1420 hours on 2 April 1916, at the Explosives Loading Company Ltd factory, the Faversham Gunpowder Works, Uplees which was located on the River Swale estuary near Faversham, Kent,. The sound of the explosion was not just heard all over Kent but also over a wide area, including northern France, and even as far away as Norwich, Norfolk tremors were felt. Most of those who perished in the disaster were buried in a large grave, owned and marked by the Explosive Loading Company Ltd on 6 April 1916. Other people who perished were buried elsewhere, primarily at their home locations. Sadly the bodies of 7 of those who lost their lives during the massive explosion were never found, having probably been atomised by the explosion. The blast which cost William his life is officially recorded as "the worst ever in the history of the United Kingdom explosives industry." Because of the high risk of explosions in the manufacture of both gunpowder and guncotton, many precautions were taken at the factory site, and that of the Cotton Powder Company which also shared the site. No metal buttons were allowed on any of the garments worn, with all buttons being made of wood. There were no pockets on anybody's overalls in which banned items could be kept. No pipes, matches or cigarettes were allowed into the works, all of these and similar banned items had to put into pigeon holes by the factory employees as they arrived for work. Tramway rails were made of wood close to buildings. Women were not allowed metal hairpins or grips, but had to have their hair tied up in a net. Even the horses had brass horseshoes instead of steel to reduce the risk of sparks. Buildings were constructed of wood and well spaced out. Not even metal nails were used. Security precautions were excellent with a military guard of 128 men and 24 patrolmen.



ADCOCK, Second Lieutenant, HAROLD NORMAN, 1st Battalion.

Died Tuesday 8 October 1918. Aged 20.

Son of Alfred W. and Louisa Adcock of High Street, Coleshill, Warwickshire.

Buried High Tree Cemetery, Montbrehain, Aisne, France. Grave Ref. A. 19.

Formerly Private, 3368, 1/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

The village of Bellenglise which lies approximately five miles to the north of St. Quentin, Aisne, France, was captured by the 46th (North Midland) Division at the end of September 1918, and it was to the Bellenglise area that Harold's battalion marched on 4 October 1918, going into various billets on the banks of the St. Quentin canal. On the night of 5/6 October, as part of the 16th Brigade, 6th Division, the 1st Battalion in unison with the rest of their brigade, relieved the officers and other ranks of the 3rd Brigade around Preselles Farm, located between Ramicourt and Sequehart, and being opposite the enemy position to be attacked, that was set in rolling downland countryside which was divided by a valley opening out towards the British, and closed at the far end by the village of Mericourt. Of significance in the valley was Mannikin Wood, and several other locations that were eminently suitable for hidden machine guns, with the British 6th Division detailed to attack up a left spur which formed a boundary of the valley, and French troops detailed to attack up the left one. Due to the delay of the formations passing through St. Quentin, and subsequently being held up by the enemy, the allied planned offensive in the area was postponed, but only for twenty four hours. On the night of 7/8 October, Harold's battalion returned from Bellenglise for a second time to its forming up line, the relevant 'Operation Order' issued explained that 16th Infantry Brigade was to attack on the right, with its outer (right) flank covered by a special detachment of 18th Infantry Brigade which was provided with tanks. 16th Infantry Brigade attack to be exploited according to circumstances, in conjunction with supporting artillery, and that the 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry would move off at 0510 hours and capture the first objective; after which the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) would advance through the 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, in liaison with the 21st Battery, Royal Field Artillery, and attack the entrenched enemy to the front of Beauregard Farm. The 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment would attack Mericourt from a north-westerly direction, whilst liaising with the 53rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Whilst Harold's battalion like all the other Great War era infantry battalions, had for the most part been generally primarily reliant on proper artillery support to ensure tactical success, towards the closing stages of the war they were on some occasions able to achieve local victories with their own weapons systems. The automatic firepower available to them by the end of the war was immense, and the attack order for Harold's battalion on the day he fell had specified the use of fifty Lewis guns by each of the assaulting companies. Due primarily to the combination of the darkness and the difficulty in guiding, the 1st Battalion was not in position until only fifteen minutes prior to zero hour, despite which its 'Operation Orders' were carried out as planned, but 37 year old Lieutenant Hugh H. Carter, the son of former Buffs R.S.M. William Carter was killed, along with his Batman prior to zero hour. At the appointed time the attack got under way, and the first of the days objective fell to the assaulting 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, after which Harold's battalion quickly moved

on to the next designated objective, with "B" and "D" Companies leading, "C" and half of "A" Companies in support, and the remainder of "A" Company held back in reserve. Shelling from the other side of the valley was very heavy which by the estimated time had not been reached by the French troops who were taking part in the attack, in addition to which a substantial amount of enemy fire was coming from Mannikin Wood in the actual valley was kept up, despite the heroic action fought by the 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment. As it appeared that a German counter attack was imminent, Second Lieutenant George Stainforth was ordered to lead forward the two platoons that had been held in reserve, and to get in touch with the front and if necessary reinforce it. By the time that battalion headquarters moved forward at 1145 hours, it found the situation going well at the battalion front, although at that time no reorganization was possible because any movement was quickly spotted by the enemy from the right. Throughout the entire day, the personnel of "A" and "C" Companies were subjected to a lot of unwelcome enemy artillery shelling from .77 guns, although a defensive flank was formed later in the day, and by 1500 hours the French troops began to advance, and their involvement completely altered the situation in favour of the allies. By late afternoon and early evening the companies had been reorganised as the situation changed, and patrols were pushed forward towards through Beauregard Farm and copse, with a line being established from the east of those locations. By nightfall Mericourt was captured by the 6th Division having by that time done all that it had been assigned for the day.

ADDISON, Private, PHILIP FRANCIS, T/240312. 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 24 February 1917. Aged 29.

Born North Warnborough, Odiham, Hampshire 15 January 1888. Enlisted and resided Cranbrook, Kent.

Son of William Grylls Addison and Alice Addison (née Knight) of 3, West Terrace, Cranbrook, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref. XXIX. B. 105/116.

Commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Dunstan, Cranbrook, Kent.

Formerly Private, 1421, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion. Educated initially at Horsmonden School, Kent, Philip later went to King's College, London, and upon leaving was employed as an Under Master at schools in Rhyl, North Wales, and at Ilford, Essex. Philip later became the Professor of English at the Berlitz School, Antwerp, Belgium, and he was still in Antwerp at the commencement of the Great War. He managed to secure a place on quite literally one of the very last vessels to leave the city in August 1914. Shortly after returning to his family home in Cranbrook, Kent, Philip enlisted in the army, joining The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). In 1916 Philip served with the regiment in Mesopotamia, but was later sent back to India resultant of his then poor health, he later returned to the regiment in Mesopotamia from January 1917, serving in the Indian Expeditionary Force. Philip was killed in action on 24 February 1917 at Shumian Bed, during the advance on Kut-el-Amara. The Turkish forces that were engaged in the battle during their attempt to retain the Shumran Peninsular on the day that Philip fell fought hard. Despite the stoic resistance encountered by the troops fighting the Turks, eventually they were forced to make a fighting withdrawal from the peninsular, due in no small measure to the fact that officers and other ranks of the 1st/5th

(Territorial Force) Battalion, and the other units also fought with courage and tenaciousness. A network of nullahs provided the retreating Ottoman troops with both good cover, and also excellent concealment for machine guns, which were exploited in full. During the offensive operation on 24 February 1917, the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion was in support of the 67th Punjabis who became held up on the left of the attack, but eventually made progress with the Buffs, but were both stopped approximately three hundred yards from a nullah which was being strongly and tenaciously held by the enemy. To the right of the Buffs, the Gurkhas also attacked but they too stopped, and an attempted flanking movement was spotted by the Turks and also failed. Probably due to the real danger of high casualty rates becoming a real possibility if further futile attempts continued to be made in daylight, it was as soon as it was dark at approximately 2100 hours patrols went out which then reported back that the Turks had evacuated the nullah and surrounding area. By the end of the day 13 other ranks had been killed in action, one of whom was Philip, and Lieutenant (later Captain) Cecil Howell and thirty four other ranks had been wounded.

ADDLEY, Lance Corporal, JOHN HARRIS, G/5490, 8th (Service) Battalion.
Died 3 July 1916.

Born Chislet, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Dranouter, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref. II. F. 7.

Only two other ranks deaths in the 8th (Service) Battalion are shown in/on SDGW as having occurred on 3 July 1916, at which time it was in the area to the north of Méteren, Nord, France, near the Belgian border. Both of soldiers were killed in action, and are at rest in the same row of graves at Dranoutre Military Cemetery.

ADDY, Private, FRANK, T/1314, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.
Died 7 May 1916. Age 22.

Born and enlisted Tenterden, Kent. Resided Rolvenden, Kent.
Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref. XXI. F. 2.

Commemorated on the Rolvenden, Kent civic war memorial, and also on Great War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, Frank was residing at Wassell Farm, Rolvenden, Kent. The census records his father as being the Head of the house, as shown under. As can be seen below, Frank's mother Elizabeth Addy, a native of nearby Appledore is not shown as being in residence at the address on the 1901 census, and as one of Frank's sisters, Louisa Addy, is recorded as being a Housekeeper, it would seem likely that by April 1901 Elizabeth Addy had died, and that Louisa was looking after the Addy family.

JAMES ADDY.	Aged 62.	Born	Wittersham, Kent.	Farmer.
FRANK T. ADDY.	Aged 19.	Born	Tenterden, Kent.	Farmers son.
LOUISA ADDY.	Aged 29.	Born	Chart Sutton, Kent.	Housekeeper.
CHARLES G. ADDY.	Aged 15.	Born.	Chart Sutton, Kent.	

The day that Frank died his battalion was near Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia, at a time when many of the battalion were suffering from a variety of diseases including Cholera, which resulted in several deaths. Probably Frank was one of the men who had succumbed to the terrible environmental conditions prevailing in Mesopotamia at that time. SDGW

records only two deaths in the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion on 7 May 1916, the other soldier being Private Charles Shoebridge from Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone, Kent, who is at rest in Basra War Cemetery, Iraq. Both are recorded as having 'Died' as opposed to being killed in action or died of wounds etcetera, and probably being indications that both Frank and Charles's deaths were probably due to illness or disease.



JAMES ADES

ADES, Serjeant, JAMES, T/722, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.
Died 4 July 1916.

Born, enlisted and resided Wittersham, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref. VIII. A. 15.

At the time of the 1901 census the Ades family was residing at Poplar Cottage, Wittersham, Kent. The census records Richard Ades, James's father as being the Head of the house, as shown under.

RICHARD ADES.	Aged 41.	Born	Wittersham, Kent. Labourer
EMILY ADES.	Aged 40.	Born	Wittersham, Kent.
FANNY ADES.	Aged 15	Born.	Wittersham, Kent.
NELLIE ADES.	Aged 12.	Born.	Wittersham, Kent.
JAMES ADES.	Aged 7.	Born	Wittersham, Kent.
MILLIE ADES.	Aged 5.	Born	Wittersham, Kent.
ETHEL ADES.	Aged 1	Born	Wittersham, Kent.
BURTRUM ADES.	Aged 82.	Born	Brede, Sussex. (Father) Labourer.

It was noted that on/in SDGW, the three members of the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion who died on 4 July 1916 were all recorded as 'Died,' as opposed to killed in action or died of wounds etcetera, indicating that their deaths were probably due to illness or disease.

AGNEW, Private, CHARLES, G/8737, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 7 October 1916. Aged 29.

Born, enlisted and resided Chatham, Kent.

Son of William Agnew of 9, Dongola Road, Strood, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon it. Charles was probably amongst the 8 officers and 121 other ranks that lost their lives in the 6th (Service) Battalion on 7 October 1916 during the Battle of the 'Transloy Ridges.' The battalion total casualty roll for the day numbers 368, including their Medical Officer, Captain Wilfred Pagen R.A.M.C., who is also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. What follows is the War Diary entry for the day: - "Quiet morning. At 1.30 p m the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire and shrapnel barrage on the front line. At 1.45 p m the attack commenced. Very heavy M.G. fire was opened, which held up "C" Company on the right. "A" and "B" companies reached the 1st objective (Rainbow Trench) with fairly heavy casualties but on advancing from 1st to 2nd objectives were completely held up with M.G. fire. Twenty men of "C" Company succeeded in getting into the German trench, with troops from the 61st Brigade, and advanced with them. The 1st objective was held until 12 midnight when the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Queen's." Captain J.C. Page, the only officer of the 6th (Service) Battalion who was not either killed or wounded on 7 October 1916, led just forty other ranks from the field of the 'Battle of the Transloy Ridges, and was later awarded the Military Cross.





HAROLD AHERN

AHERN, Lance Corporal, HAROLD, L/10028, 1st Battalion.

Died 18 October 1914. Aged 19.

Born No 1 Battery, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent.

Resided Buckland, Dover, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ahearn of 60, Mayfield Avenue, Buckland, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2, and also on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

On the Ploegsteert Memorial, Harold's surname is erroneously spelt **AHEARN**.

At the start of the Great War the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was stationed Fermoy, Ireland, which it had left 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, became the first of at least 1120 other ranks in the battalion to die in the Great War, the second being 30 year old Private Young T.E. Town from Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent. A fairly recent innovation is the sounding of the Last Post which takes place at the Ploegsteert Memorial on the first Friday of every month at 1900 hours. We have noticed in the summer months that it is advisable to arrive early for the simple but nonetheless moving tribute as the lay-by in front of the Berks Cemetery Extension where the memorial is situated usually fills up quite quickly as 1900 hours approaches, as whilst the number of those who attend the

ceremony is not comparable with those at the Menin Gate in Ieper an hour later, every time we have been at the Ploegsteert Memorial ceremony the numbers seem to grow. Following the sounding of the Last Post, it is advisable to wait until the 'rush' to Ieper is over, as there is both plenty of time to get to the Menin Gate ceremony. Harold was amongst the 24 other ranks serving in the 1st Battalion who died on 18 October 1914. Following the fall of the city of Antwerp on 9 October 1914, it allowed for the release of a vast amount of German troops, and depending on what publication is read, the actual numbers of soldiers that then became available for duty elsewhere vary wildly. Despite generally accepted as containing numerous errors, the book by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B., detailing the regiments' contribution during the Great War, put the above number as 90,000, Colonel Moody also make mention that in addition to those enemy soldiers, four German Army Corps had also been brought from the Eastern Front to fight on the Western Front. With the mass of additional manpower available to the German High Command, the British and French troops the enemy from post the fall of Antwerp were vastly outnumbered. On 12 October 1914 the 1st Battalion was relieved in their trenches on the Aisne by French troops, and marched to the little village of Bazoches-sur-Vesles along with the 16th Brigade of the 6th Division to which the battalion belonged, and entrained from Bazoches-sur-Vesles to Cassel where they arrived the following day. The following is an extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "The 16th Infantry Brigade now rejoined the Division from the Aisne, and on the 18th October a reconnaissance in force was ordered, which was brilliantly carried out. The Buffs and Y. and L. on the right captured Radinghem without much opposition, and advanced across a small plateau, 300 yards in width, towards the woods in which stands the Château de Flandres. They here came under a heavy cross-fire of machine-guns and shrapnel, and were counter-attacked and driven back. The situation, however, was saved by Major Bayley's company of the Y. and L., which had worked round on the left and threatened the flank of the counter-attack, which thereon withdrew. The Y. and L. suffered considerable casualties in this little action--Major Robertson being killed. Meanwhile the 18th Infantry Brigade had captured Ennetières and the south end of Capinghem, while the 17th Infantry Brigade reached Prêmesques, but was unable to take Pérenchies. The 4th Division had not been able to cross the Lys north of Armentières, which necessitated the 17th Infantry Brigade throwing back its flank to l'Épinette. On the 19th October the Division entrenched on the line it had won. To the right were French cavalry and cyclists, covering the gap between the right of the III Corps and the left of the I Corps near Aubers. The advance from Hazebrouck to the ridge had occupied six days, and cost the Division some 750 casualties. On the morning of the 20th October the Germans attacked very heavily on the whole front. Fighting on a very extended front (five miles) and with very little in hand, the Division was soon in difficulties, particularly on the exposed left flank, where the Leinsters had their three left companies quickly driven in, and the situation at midday was critical. One company with the machine-guns was able to hold on until the afternoon at Mont de Prêmesques, and to withdraw under cover of darkness, having inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. Meanwhile units of other brigades were putting up a gallant fight against great odds, each unit generally with one or both flanks unsupported. At Ennetières, which formed rather a salient, the Sherwood Foresters held out all day, but

were attacked at dusk by three battalions and practically annihilated or captured, only the CO., Adjutant, Q.M. and 250 other ranks remaining the next day. The Buffs, after a splendid fight, were driven out of Radinghem, and by night the Division was practically back on the line which it was to hold for the next few months, and on which the German offensive of 1918 still found the British. Continuous unsuccessful attempts to break through occurred till 31st October, when trench warfare set in. Notable among these was the attack on the K.S.L.I. and Y. and L. on the 23rd October, when 300 enemy dead were left in front of our trenches; on the 18th Infantry Brigade on the night of the 27/28th October, when the enemy captured the line, but was driven out by a counter-attack, in which the East Yorks specially distinguished themselves; and on the night of the 29/30th October, when the 19th Infantry Brigade lost some trenches, but counter-attacked successfully, and counted 200 German dead. The incident of Cpl. Forward, 1st The Buffs, is typical of the fierce fighting. On 30th October, when the O.C. machine-guns of The Buffs and all the team had been killed or wounded, this gallant N.C.O. continued to fire his gun until eventually wounded in five places, when he crawled back to report the situation. He was rewarded with the D.C.M. During the whole period, 20th to 30th October, the guns were woefully short of ammunition, and consequently a greater strain was thrown on the infantry." Harold's brother also fell during the Great War, who was also probably a regular soldier, he being:-

AHERN, LEONARD JOHN. Rifleman, 4220. 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died 14 March 1915.

Born Cowgate, Isle of Wight. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 44.

Judging by Leonard's regimental number, he was probably serving in the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade as a regular soldier, and as such would probably have been amongst those on the battalion roll when it arrived at Le Harve, France on 6 November 1915. Leonard fell during a period of notably heavy casualties to his battalion, including deaths. On 9 March 1915 the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade assembled in trenches to the north-west of Neuve-Chapelle, north of La Bassee and west of Lille in the Pas de Calais, France, in readiness to take part on the first day of what is now remembered as 'The Battle of Neuve-Chapelle' (10-13 March 1915). Following an intense bombardment by about 500 artillery pieces of forty minutes duration, Leonard's battalion in company with the other units involved left their trenches to take part in the battle. On the battle's first day the battalion attacked through the village and dug in, the attack resulted in at least 116 casualties in the battalion, and ultimately cost several lives including that of the battalion Medical Officer Captain Harry V.B. Byatt R.A.M.C. who was mortally wounded and died on the same day as Leonard. At 1230 hours on 12 March a fresh attack on the enemy was mounted by the battalion, during which the officers and other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies were met by heavy cross fire as soon as each commenced their attacks. At 1645 hours fresh orders were sent to the battalion, instructing that the enemy's trenches were to be rushed 'regardless of loss.' Despite incredible courage displayed by all ranks of the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade that day the assault failed, and the official battalion casualty roll shows the staggering figure of 377 all ranks. A number of the officers of the battalion who fell are buried in the little Neuve-Chapelle British Cemetery, including Lieutenant Thomas P. Pilcher the son of Major General Thomas David Pilcher, C.B., and Kathleen Pilcher, inside the village church is a memorial cross which reads, "In loving

memory of Lieut Thomas Percy Pilcher of 2nd Batt. Rifle Brigade aged 21, and of his fellow officers and men who fell valiantly attacking the German lines near Neuve Chapelle on March 12th 1915.” When looking at the cross, it struck home that in effect it was also a memorial to all members of the battalion who died in or as the result of the battle, including Leonard Ahern. Apart from the casualty numbers, another indication of the battalions gallantry and commitment can also be gauged by the fact that two men of Leonard’s battalion were subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross for the part they played in the battle, sadly one of which was posthumous. Company Sergeant Major (later Lieutenant Colonel V.C., M.C.) Harry Daniels, and Lance Corporal Cecil Nobel being the recipients, Cecil died of his wounds and is buried in Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery. The following is the V.C. citation for Cecil Noble, which is as for Harry Daniels apart from name changes etcetera, and is an extract from the Supplement to the London Gazette of 27 April 1915 (No. 29146) which records the award of the V.C. to this N.C.O. and to C.S.M. H. Daniels “For most conspicuous bravery on 12th March, 1915, at Neuve Chapelle, when their battalion was impeded in the advance to attack by wire entanglements, and subjected to a very severe machine-gun fire, these two men voluntarily rushed in front and succeeded in cutting the wires.” For a comprehensive amount of family information appertaining to the Ahern family, including several photographs, please also see the excellent Dover, Kent commemorative website www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk

AIKENHEAD, Private, ALEXANDER, G/14752, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 29 August 1918.

Born, enlisted and resided Warrington, Lancashire.

Buried Péronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. II. F. 14.

Formerly Private, 91653, Durham Light Infantry.

Following a brief rest, the 12th (Eastern) Division to which the 6th (Service) Battalion belonged, recommenced attacked the retiring enemy troops on 22 August, pushing them across the devastated old Somme battlefields, during which time a number of enemy held positions including villages were taken, which had included the capturing of the villages of Meaulte, Mametz, Carnoy, and Hardecourt plus Faviere Wood, which was reached after a week of continuous fighting. The 12th (Eastern) Division had made an advance of approximately eight and a half miles, and had captured several prisoners and equipment. During the initial stages of the engagements, the 6th (Service) Battalion had been on loan to the 35th Brigade, but went back to their own 37th Brigade on 24 August. Over the next few days the casualties to Alexander’s battalion were surprising light, the 27th August being the worst day with eighteen other ranks deaths occurring. Seven other ranks deaths in the 6th (Service) Battalion, are recorded in/on SDGW as having occurred on 29 August 1918, five of whom are shown as killed in action, and two as died of wounds, Alexander being named amongst those that were killed. Reading different data sources seems to indicate that the majority of the deaths in the battalion, and probably amongst other regiments during this period, were as the direct result of the numerous enemy rear guard actions that were fought, some of which appear to have been quite heroic. The village of Maricourt was, at the beginning of the Battles of the Somme 1916, the point of junction of the British and French forces, and within a very short distance of the front line; it was lost in the German advance of March, 1918, and recaptured at the end of the

following August. The cemetery where Alexander is at rest was originally known as Maricourt Military Cemetery No.3, was begun by fighting units and Field Ambulances in the Battles of the Somme 1916, and used until August, 1917; a few graves were added later in the War, and at the Armistice it consisted of 175 graves which now form almost the whole of Plot I. It was completed after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields in the immediate neighbourhood and from certain smaller burial grounds, and one of the latter burials appears to have been Alexander.

AINGE, Private, ARTHUR EDWARD, G/14140, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 6 August 1918. Aged 19.

Born and enlisted Deptford, Kent. Resided New Cross, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Jessie Ainge of 7, Dermody Gardens, Lewisham, London.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 16

The Pozières Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave, and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names, The Durham Light Infantry with approximately 600 names, the Machine Gun Corps with over 500, The Manchester Regiment with approximately 500 and The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery with over 400 names. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) fallen that are commemorated on the memorial, number 112, and are all named on Panel 16. It was of significance that the war had been fought for four years played a part in the death of Arthur and 17 other ranks. Both sides of the conflict fighting in the European War had, by August 1918 learned by their mistakes which had been made as time went by, some of which had been costly. As part of the 55th Brigade 18th (Eastern) Division, Arthur's battalion was holding the brigade frontage, north of the Bray-Corbie road in trenches, which had until only recently been inhabited by the Germans. Australian troops had dislodged the Germans, and held the trenches until being relieved by the Buffs. Dawn was breaking as companies were being relieved all along the positions on the part of the front where the 7th (Service) Battalion was. Near the Buffs positions, soldiers of the East Surrey Regiment were at the time experiencing various difficulties during the relief operations. After all the experience gained by all formations by now, the Germans, realising what was happening, took the opportunity to make a lightning attack at the weakest point in the British line. Primarily due to the element of surprise, as well as the confusion that took place at the time, the German attack was a total success, their losses being particularly light. Some survivors of the attack made similar comments along the lines that they would have lost at least twice as many men, had the same attack by the enemy taken place in 1914. In gaining the trenches, the Germans had managed to gain a vital portion of the British line and were, in effect, in a very strong position to launch an attack from their new trenches. Due to the sparse cover that the holding troops had, and how thinly they were spread on the ground, to launch a counter attack was out of the question. British troops in the forward trenches were in mud knee deep, and had originally expected to leave them going on forward, not to withdraw from them. Including the Buffs, soldiers who then held the line braced themselves for a German raid, but first they expected an artillery bombardment which would almost certainly cause more deaths, as would the raid that would follow it. True to form, the German field guns commenced firing at 0420 hours for

what the British thought would be a short time, but nearly two hours later the enemy artillery bombardment was still in progress. The British now suspected that a full scale attack was imminent, and not just a raid. For a full two hours, the shelling continued, part of the result was the telephone lines were cut or, more correctly, smashed in several places making repair impossible. To compound the communication problems, because of the shape of the ground, it would have been pointless to try and signal visually. When the enemy launched their attack on the thinly manned British defenders, they very quickly gained a front of approximately half a mile in length. Gallantly, the soldiers of the East Surrey Regiment made a vain attempt to attack along the road itself. By 0830 hours it was apparent to the HQ staff that the German infantry were now in the old British first line, and that the situation was deteriorating rapidly. Behind the old British first line was 'Burke Line' and, as they had done so many times before, the Buffs distinguished themselves in battle. News arrived at HQ that the battalion had, against all odds, captured the 'Burke Line.' Once in the 'Burke Line' the Buffs quickly established posts at all the trench junctions. Buoyed up by their success in taking the line, the Buffs then even pushed patrols out forward. Following this push, it was a surprised enemy that had to try and fend off the 7th (Service) Battalion bombers, as they closed on them at the junctions of their trenches. During these grenade attacks men died on both sides, but the Buffs continued to gain the upper hand. It is worth noting that during that morning on 6 August 1918, the 55th Brigade was only two Battalions strong (perhaps that should read weak). The 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) had been withdrawn to rest and refit but were ordered back to the front and were back in action at midday.

AINSWORTH, Private, EDWARD, T/203482, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died of wounds 30 September 1917. Aged 19.

Born, enlisted and resided Liverpool, Lancashire.

Son of Richard Ainsworth of 23 Northumberland Buildings, Gelling Street, Liverpool, Lancashire.

Buried Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Proven, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref. VI. C. 27.

Formerly Private, 41452, 8th (Irish) Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Kings (Liverpool Regiment).

Unfortunately because he is recorded as having died of wounds, it has not been possible to ascertain when, where or how Edward was mortally wounded, he being numbered amongst the 23 other ranks who were serving in the 7th (Service) Battalion that died on 30 September 1917, all of whom are recorded in/on SDGW as having died of wounds. In view of the location of Edward's final resting place, it came as no surprise to see that he had died of wounds. In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station was opened at Proven, and the site which is now the Mendinghem Military Cemetery was chosen for its cemetery, with the first burials taking place in August 1916. In July 1917 four further clearing stations arrived at Proven in readiness for the forthcoming Allied offensive on this front, and three of them, the 12th, 46th, and 64th, stayed until 1918. From May to July 1918 at the time that the German offensive was at its height, Field Ambulances were posted at Proven.

AITCHISON, Corporal, ANDREW JAMES, G/18767, 1st Battalion.

Died 31 October 1917.

Born Notting Hill, Middlesex. Enlisted Harrow, Middlesex. Resided Elmington, Warwickshire.

Buried Gosnay Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. 13.

Andrew appears to have been the only member of his battalion to have died on 31 October 1917. SDGW entry for Andrew shows 'Died,' as opposed to killed in action or died of wounds, and as such it has not been possible to add at this brief commemoration when, where or how he died. The cemetery where Andrew is at rest contains 13 Commonwealth burials of the Great War, the majority of which were noted as having been deaths which occurred in September 1915. Gosnay village is approximately three miles to the south-west of Bethune, and the Communal Cemetery where Andrew is at rest lies on the Bethune side of the village.

AITKEN, Lance Corporal, WILLIAM WHITELEY, G/731.

"C" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 3 May 1917. Aged 20.

Born New Mills, Manchester, Lancashire. Enlisted London, September 1914. Resided Gravesend, Kent.

Son of William Alexander and Sarah Elizabeth Aitken of Alexander Lodge, Lennox Road, Gravesend, Kent.

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

With some justification it is probably fair to say that the various commentators remarks about the action fought on the 2/3 May 1917 at the village of Chérisy, to the south east of Arras, France, by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and by the other battalions taking part, along the lines of it being a failure are well grounded. It should be hastily pointed out however, that non of those (irrespective of country etcetera) who have passed judgment on same, have ever leveled any criticisms or disparaging remarks about those who took part in the action, which was undertaken as part of the overall battles of the Scarpe. On the night of 2/3 May 1917, William's battalion was opposite the village of Chérisy, which is situated only a short distance to the south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). Waiting in readiness for the attack were the officers and other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies who had been selected to be the assaulting companies, with 'C' as the supporting Company, and 'D' Company being held in reserve, waiting in shell holes to the rear of the support trench. At 0345 hours the first two companies set off towards the battalions prime objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917, it being a location named Keeling Copse. Fortunately all the battalion were clear of the front trench prior to it, and other locations being bombarded by German artillery. Blame for the confusion which had prevailed during the attack has been ascertained to numerous causes and people, but an overriding factor oft referred to was the fact that during the early stages of the days events, it had been pitch black. As the direct result of the lack of light, all the sections, platoons and even companies seen got mixed up and muddled. At one point virtually the whole of the 12th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, had crossed in front of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), but with a measure of commendable skill that error was corrected. With the coming of dawn the village of Chérisy was not only reached but

actually passed, and as it was entered by the battalion touch was made with the same Middlesex battalion which had 'strayed' across its front earlier in the attack. Upon reaching the river Sensée beyond Chérisy, it was noted that the adjacent battalions had in fact lost touch with each other again. As the result of the set-back, Captain Black of 'A' Company wisely halted the battalion, and set about forming a defensive flank along the road which runs to the south east of Chérisy. Before the reorganization could be accomplished, the troops were heavily attacked, which had the additional result of the message sent back by Captain Black failing to get back. By 0900 hours Captain Black's Company on the right flank of the battalion was unable to move. Resulting from the situation which 'A' Company was in, had the effect of those on the opposite flank losing what advantages it had made, with both 'B' and 'C' Companies having by that time also fought their way to the Sensée. Shortly afterwards, fresh orders were received by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), to advance in unison with the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to the 'Red Line,' and their fellow 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, members of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), to consolidate the 'Blue Line.' At approximately 1100 hours unclear reports filtered through that a general retirement was taking place, at a time when stretcher bearers and the like were engaged on rescue undertakings. An unfortunate result of the confusion generated by the 'retirement' was that those engaged on the rescues, those retiring and the enemy soldiers were to all intents and purposes intermingled, which had the knock on effect of making it virtually impossible to open fire. After the 'retirement' was stopped the attack, albeit with less momentum got under way again, and as late as 1915 hours an attempt was made to reoccupy 'Cable Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), supported by William's battalion, but it was to no avail as the assaulting battalion was driven back by intense German machine gun and rifle fire. By the end of the day on 3 May 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was back in the original front line trenches. As the result of the failed attack at Chérisy, the battalion had two officers killed, six wounded and four missing, and the casualties to the other ranks were one hundred and twenty killed, one hundred and sixty nine wounded, and approximately one hundred missing.

AKEHURST, Private, WILLIAM HENRY, G/20185, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 3 May 1917. Aged 42.

Born and resided Portslade, Sussex. Enlisted Hove, Sussex.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Portslade and West Hove, Sussex civic war memorial, which is located in Easthill Park, Portslade, Sussex.

William was probably the 5 year old boy, who at the time of the 1881 census was residing with his family at 5 North Street, Portslade, Sussex. Samuel Akehurst, William's father, who was employed as a Labourer was the Head of the house.

SAMUEL AKEHURST. Aged 42. Born Eastbourne, Sussex.

ELIZA AKEHURST. Aged 42. Born Portslade, Sussex.

LOYD AKEHURST. Aged 15. Born Hove, Sussex.

ALFRED AKEHURST. Aged 13. Born Portslade, Sussex

ELIZA AKEHURST. Aged 7. Born Portslade, Sussex.

WILLIAM AKEHURST. Aged 5. Born Portslade, Sussex.

With some justification it is probably fair to say that the various commentators remarks about the action fought on the 2/3 May 1917 at the village of Chérisy, to the south east of Arras, France, by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and by the other battalions taking part, along the lines of it being a failure are well grounded. It should be hastily pointed out however, that non of those (irrespective of country etcetera) who have passed judgment on same, have ever leveled any criticisms or disparaging remarks about those who took part in the action, which was undertaken as part of the overall battles of the Scarpe. On the night of 2/3 May 1917, William's battalion was opposite the village of Chérisy, which is situated only a short distance to the south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). Waiting in readiness for the attack were the officers and other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies who had been selected to be the assaulting companies, with 'C' as the supporting Company, and 'D' Company being held in reserve, waiting in shell holes to the rear of the support trench. At 0345 hours the first two companies set off towards the battalions prime objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917, it being a location named Keeling Copse. Fortunately all the battalion were clear of the front trench prior to it, and other locations being bombarded by German artillery. Blame for the confusion which had prevailed during the attack has been ascertained to numerous causes and people, but an overriding factor oft referred to was the fact that during the early stages of the days events, it had been pitch black. As the direct result of the lack of light, all the sections, platoons and even companies seen got mixed up and muddled. At one point virtually the whole of the 12th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, had crossed in front of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), but with a measure of commendable skill that error was corrected. With the coming of dawn the village of Chérisy was not only reached but actually passed, and as it was entered by the battalion touch was made with the same Middlesex battalion which had 'strayed' across its front earlier in the attack. Upon reaching the river Sensée beyond Chérisy, it was noted that the adjacent battalions had in fact lost touch with each other again. As the result of the set-back, Captain Black of 'A' Company wisely halted the battalion, and set about forming a defensive flank along the road which runs to the south east of Chérisy. Before the reorganization could be accomplished, the troops were heavily attacked, which had the additional result of the message sent back by Captain Black failing to get back. By 0900 hours Captain Black's Company on the right flank of the battalion was unable to move. Resulting from the situation which 'A' Company was in, had the effect of those on the opposite flank losing what advantages it had made, with both 'B' and 'C' Companies having by that time also fought their way to the Sensée. Shortly afterwards, fresh orders were received by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), to advance in unison with the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to the 'Red Line,' and their fellow 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, members of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), to consolidate the 'Blue Line.' At approximately 1100 hours unclear reports filtered through that a general retirement was taking place, at a time when stretcher bearers and the like were engaged on rescue undertakings. An unfortunate result of the confusion generated by the 'retirement' was that those engaged on the rescues, those retiring and the enemy soldiers were to all intents and purposes intermingled, which had the knock on effect of making it virtually impossible to open

fire. After the 'retirement' was stopped the attack, albeit with less momentum got under way again, and as late as 1915 hours an attempt was made to reoccupy 'Cable Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), supported by William's battalion, but it was to no avail as the assaulting battalion was driven back by intense German machine gun and rifle fire. By the end of the day on 3 May 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was back in the original front line trenches. As the result of the failed attack at Chérisy, the battalion had two officers killed, six wounded and four missing, and the casualties to the other ranks were one hundred and twenty killed, one hundred and sixty nine wounded, and approximately one hundred missing.

AKHURST, Private, HARRY THOMAS, G/5015, 2nd Battalion.

Died 3 May 1915. Aged 37.

Born Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted and resided Sittingbourne, Kent.

Son of the late Thomas and Harriett Akhurst of Church Street, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Husband of Emily Isabel Akhurst of 22, Eastbourne Street, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Buried Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. VII. D. 13.

Commemorated on the Sittingbourne, Kent civic war memorial, and originally on the Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent, civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1881 census the Akhurst family was residing at 32 St. Paul Street, Milton Regis, Kent, with Harriett Akhurst, Harry's mother as Head of the house.

HARRIET AKHURST. Aged 45. Born Sittingbourne, Kent.

JOHN AKHURST. Aged 13. Born Milton, Kent.

ALFRED BRIDGE AKHURST. Aged 9. Born Milton, Kent.

HARRY T. AKHURST. Aged 6. Born Milton, Kent.

HARRIET AKHURST. Aged 4. Born Milton, Kent.

On 1 May 1915 the Harry's battalion had a fresh draft of other ranks join it in Belgium direct from England, who due primarily to time constraints were not initially allotted to the different companies in the 2nd Battalion, and it was decided to locate the new men in a new support trench in front of a wood. All of the positions occupied by the battalion were subjected to an extraordinary amount of enemy shellfire the day after the arrival of the fresh draft, with numerous casualties being inflicted on the battalion. Several commentators have made very similar comments when referring to the days' events, along the lines of the British artillery guns being virtually powerless to offer support and return shellfire onto the German artillery gun emplacements. Many of the same commentators, and also probably of more important significance and relevance, is some of the correspondence which was written by some of the survivors who had served in the battalion during late April and early May 1915, with the writers of same commenting about not getting artillery support due to the lack of the gunners ammunition. Many of the gunners also became casualties, as the direct result of being fired upon by enemy field guns. During the hours of darkness on the night of 2/3 May the intensity of the German shelling subsided, but at first light on the morning of Monday 3 May 1915, the artillery bombardment of the battalion positions was once again renewed. Throughout the whole of the day on Monday 3 May the enemy guns continued to fire at will, and as on the

previous day, the doubtless frustrated British gunners were unable to offer all but a token reply. During the morning 38 year old Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon who was commanding at that time, reported many casualties, and that the trench parapets had been blown in and that the situation was critical. Later it became even worse, with the bombardment being so rapid as to being likened to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire. One of the trenches held by the battalion called D.5, was rushed by enemy infantry, but it would seem that none of the members of "C" Company who had been ensconced in the trench, were at that time in a position to offer any form of resistance during the German assault. Captain L. Howard Smith, Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, and approximately eighty other ranks had formerly occupied D.5, but had all been killed or wounded, and all were later reported as missing. At the time of Ernest's death, there were no communication trenches in common use, and as such the parties of soldiers of varying sizes, were to all intents and purposes isolated and cut-off from help and/or support once in place in the allocated trenches, or other forms of defensive cover such as shell holes, the reason being that as the engagements raged, it would have been far too hazardous to cross above ground between the trenches. Probably due to the fact that D.5 fell to the enemy, who had also possessed woods located behind that particular trench complex, it appears to have had the knock on effect of another trench (D.4), also being captured by enemy infantry. Following the capture of D.5, by the enemy soldiers, D.4 was then subjected to fire by the Germans, who had taken over the occupancy of the former 2nd Battalion trench. Compounding the perilous position faced by the members of the battalion in D.4 was the enemy firing coming from the nearby wood in the enemies' hands. Captain Houblon, and a Lieutenant Sharp along with other what remained of "D" Company, and a few stragglers made gallant efforts to remain in trench D.4, but resulting from the firing coming in from both sides, their position became virtually un-defendable, necessitating a withdrawal along the trench line, a maneuver that was conducted with commendable steady order and control. To assist with the final withdrawal from D.4, at great risk to themselves, covering fire was provided by Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, and by Private, 7852, Frederick Campbell who were both members of "C" Company, miraculously both of whom managed to extricate themselves from the trench whilst under heavy fire. Although he was wounded during the fierce engagement, Lieutenant Sharp and the survivors of Captain Houblon's party eventually managed to reach trench D.3, and later reached D.1, which was held by Captain Barnard with "A" Company. A small party of members of the battalion led by Second Lieutenant, Ellis Brockman, Backhouse, and a company of soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), led by Captain R. Ford, did however manage to tenaciously hold on to a new support trench, during which time they were subjected to horrendous enfilade fire from enemy heavy howitzers and other artillery pieces. In much the same way that the earlier withdrawals had been steadily conducted, the battalion later moved back to bivouacs located in a wood near Poperinghe, taking with it all the wounded that could be moved, spare ammunition, tools, and equipment being taken with the battalion. Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and received his commission. The relevant London Gazette entry for his D.C.M., dated 30 June 1915, reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 3rd May 1915, in holding on to a trench to the last, covering the retirement of his men to another position. The enemy, of whom he killed many, were only yards

away.” Frederick Campbell who also made the heroic rearguard stand with Ernest G. Port D.C.M., apparently was not even Mentioned in Despatches, or “B” for Record, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers, and served as a Serjeant in a Railway Company. Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, was later promoted to Captain and became an Adjutant, Captain L. Howard Smith, was later promoted to Major, and Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon, who was a son of Colonel George Archer Houblon, was also promoted to the rank of Major, and was attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Major Henry Houblon later inherited the Hallingbury Place Estate, Essex which had been used extensively by the British army during the Great War, and offered it on lease, but possibly resultant of the prevailing economic climate which prevailed at that time no one came forward, and eventually it was put up for sale. In October 1923, the great house was demolished, and the materials and contents put up for sale and the estate broken up. Due primarily to the fact that Harry had not been an officer, it has not been possible thus far to be able to ascertain how, when, or where Harry actually died, during the somewhat one-sided engagement that was fought by the 2nd Battalion on 3 May 1915, which I known to have cost the lives of at least 144 other ranks. It is particularly regrettable that the names etcetera, of many of the men who had joined the battalion as members of the drafts, that had been posted to the battalion on 30 April & 1 May 1915, were initially not known, and as such it would probably be fair to assume that in many cases that unfortunate status is still applicable at this point in time (June 2004). It has also been frustrating to have not been able thus far, to ascertain the time amount of time that Harry had spent serving in the battalion, or if was of only less than a week, which would be applicable to those who joined via the last two drafts to the 2nd Battalion.

AKHURST, Private, JOHN WILLIAM, G/13343, 1st Battalion.

Died Friday 30 March 1917.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent.

Buried Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, Pas de Calais. Grave Ref. I. P. 28.

Commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Peter, Bredhurst, Gillingham, Kent.

On 1 March 1917 the 6th Division of which John’s battalion was part of, took over a 11,000 yard front extending north from the Double Crassier at Loos-en-Gohelle, with sectors located at Loos, 14bis, Hulluch, and Hohenzollern, all three brigades being in line and a brigade of the 21st Division which also came under the command of the G.O.C., 6th Division. March and the first portion of April were notable for raids and counter-raids, and for considerable artillery and trench-mortar activity, which resulted in more or less continuous fighting consequent on the withdrawal of the enemy opposite the right of the 6th Division after the successful attack by the Canadians at Vimy. During the greater part of the Great War, Maroc British Cemetery in the village of Grenay where John is at rest was in use as a front-line cemetery by numerous fighting units, and also by Field Ambulances. Fortunately it was protected from German observation by a slight rise in the ground. It seemed somewhat apt that John and those who fell with him on 30 March 1917 appear for the most part to be at rest in the same cemetery, as those members of the same battalion who lost their lives on 18 March 1917. On the latter date, an enemy raid was carried out on trenches in the area of Loos-en-Gohelle, which were occupied by the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Casualties amongst the assaulting Germans,

and the defending Buffs were fairly even, as at least 7 enemy soldiers fell. An officer, 30 year old Second Lieutenant Harold M. Norsworthy, and 10 members of the 1st Battalion also died, in addition to which Second Lieutenant Hughes, and 24 other ranks were wounded, plus eight missing. Although the German soldiers gained a footing at the trenches during the attack, eventually they were driven out. Colonel Moody in his book of the regiments' history during the Great War, wrote the following, "This raid seemed to have had the effect of raising and fostering a very firm determination on the part of the Buffs to get a bit of their own back." Led by Captain Bernard L. Strauss, what was in effect a retaliatory raid in response to the German raid on 18 March 1917, was carried out on Friday 30 March 1917. Second Lieutenant's Brown, P.W.D. Davis and Griffith were the other officers who took part on the raid along with a hundred other ranks of the battalion. German front line, and supporting works were attacked, with a number of enemy dug-outs being blown up. On the return leg of the successful days work, a number of enemy prisoners and many 'trophies' accompanied the Buffs. 22 year old Second Lieutenant, Percy Davis, from Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was initially posted as missing, but was later confirmed as having been killed in action, and at least 11 other ranks deaths in the 1st Battalion occurred on Friday 30 March 1917. In addition to those who fell, Second Lieutenant Griffith, and at least 29 other ranks were wounded during the raid. Captain Bernard L. Strauss was later promoted to the rank of Major, and awarded the Military Cross, but sadly he too fell on 1 December 1917, aged 25, and is at rest at Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel Le Grand, Somme.

ALBOROUGH, Lance Corporal, FRANK OSCAR, G/8532, 6th (Service) Battalion.
Died 7 October 1916. Aged 22.

Born and resided Edmonton, Middlesex. Enlisted Tottenham

Brother of Miss E. A. Alborough of 3, Church Lane, Edmonton, London.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it. Frank was probably amongst the 8 officers and 121 other ranks who lost their lives in the 6th Battalion that day during the "Battle of the 'Transloy Ridges," the total casualty roll for the day numbers 368, including their Medical Officer, Captain Wilfred Pagen R.A.M.C., who is also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. What follows is the War Diary entry for the day: - "Quiet morning. At 1.30 p m the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire and shrapnel barrage on the front line. At 1.45 p m the attack commenced. Very heavy M.G. fire was opened, which held up "C" Company on the right. "A" and "B" companies reached the 1st objective (Rainbow Trench) with fairly heavy casualties but on advancing from 1st to 2nd objectives were completely held up with M.G. fire. Twenty men of "C" Company succeeded in getting into the German trench, with troops from the 61st Brigade, and advanced with them. The 1st objective was held until 12 midnight when the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Queen's." Captain J.C. Page, the only officer of the 6th (Service) Battalion who was not either killed or wounded on 7 October 1916, led just forty other ranks from the field of the 'Battle of the Transloy Ridges,' and was later awarded the Military Cross.

ALDGATE, Private, HAROLD CHARLES, L/10783, 1st Battalion.

Died 15 September 1916.

Born St. Saviour's, Leicester, Leicestershire. Enlisted and resided Leicester, Leicestershire.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon it. Formerly Private, 34128, Army Service Corps.

The British objective for 15 September 1916 was a line stretching between the Somme villages of Gueudecourt, Flers, Lesboeufs, and Morval, with the XIV Corps (Guards and 6th Division) detailed to capture the two latter locations. Harold's battalion was engaged in the major action at Morval, with the battalion moving forward from the frontline trenches and attacked a heavily fortified enemy redoubt known as the Quadrilateral which was located on the edge of Bouteaux Wood. It was also the first occasion that tanks were employed, but as far as the 6th Division was concerned their use was a failure, for of the three tanks that were allotted to the division, two broke down before starting, and the third, moving off in accordance with orders long before the infantry, had its periscope shot off, its peep-holes blinded, after being literally riddled by armour piercing bullets, and had to come back without achieving anything. To facilitate the movement of the tanks a gap of approximately 200 yards had been left in the artillery creeping barrage. Unfortunately the gap coincided with the strongest point of the Quadrilateral. Adding to the problems faced by the assaulting infantry was that the artillery barrage had passed over the German trenches by the time the infantry advanced. The 1st Battalion was tasked with supporting both the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedford Regiment, that had one company bombing up the trench from Leuze Wood, and the remainder over the open to the north against the south-west face, and also the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. The leading formation started its advance to attack up the muddy slippery slopes at 0620 hours without any artillery support except for the already referred to bombardment, but both of the leading battalions were soon checked by heavy enemy machine gun fire. The 1st Battalion began its advance fifteen minutes after the two leading battalions, but they also quickly became inflamed by enemy machine gun fire, with most being pinned down in shell holes, and suffered substantial casualties. 6 officers and 53 other ranks were killed and an additional 190 men were wounded, their casualties being the highest of those which took part in the attack. Under the cover of darkness during the night the battalion withdrew to a trench running south east to Guillemont.

ALDRED, Private, HAROLD JAMES, G/9845, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Killed in action 8 November 1916. Aged 23.

Born and enlisted Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Resided Runham, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Son of the late John Fair Aldred and Laura M. Aldred.

Husband of Hilda May Yaxley (formerly Aldred) of 30, Victoria Street, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Buried Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref. II. F. 6.

Harold's is the sole death recorded as having occurred in the 8th (Service) Battalion of the regiment, on 8 November 1916. In 1920 a book entitled the 'Norfolk Roll of Honour 1914-18,' was published by the Norfolk News Company Ltd., which was also the

publishers of the 'Eastern Daily Press,' which had published the original details during the Great War years. Although five casualties from the village of Runham near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk are recorded in the book, regrettably Harold is not of their number.

ALDRIDGE, Private, ARTHUR WILLIAM, G/9883, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 4 August 1916.

Born Clapton, Middlesex. Enlisted and resided Cambridge, Cambridgeshire.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, Arthur's name being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon it.

On the evening of 3 August 1916 the 6th battalion prepared to take part in an attack during the fighting on the Pozières Ridge near the village of Thiepval on the Somme. The battalions' objective being a trench system of strong points called "Ration Trench", zero hour was set for 2315 hours, but just over two hours prior to the battalion going on the offensive enemy artillery bombarded their trenches, fortunately some French gunners were quick of the mark and returned fire with gas shells which silenced the German artillery and doubtlessly saved the lives of some of the waiting Buffs, eventually the attack was launched at the planned time, after successfully attacking, capturing and consolidating their gains following the action the battalion were relieved and retired to Martinsart Wood where a roll call was taken which revealed that the 6th battalion had lost 4 officers and 114 men in this action. Mention should be made of the part played by 20 year old Lieutenant Alexander J Harmer on the night of 3/4 August, quarter of an hour before the main attack by the battalion he led a bombing party out of the trenches to deal with an enemy machine gun, which was expected to play a significant role in hampering the Buffs assault on Ration Trench when it got under way, 'Alex' and his men did deal with the offending machine gun but in the process the gallant young officer was mortally wounded, he died in hospital at Rouen on 7 October 1916, for his gallantry he was awarded the Military Cross.

ALDRIDGE, Company Serjeant Major, ERNEST, G/870, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Friday 12 October 1917. Aged 27.

Born Litchfield, Staffordshire. Enlisted St. Pancras, Middlesex. Resided Cadishead, Manchester, Lancashire.

Son of Mary Aldridge of 13, Holland Street, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, Warwickshire, and the late Joseph Aldridge.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 17.

On the day that Ernest died, 55 Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, to which the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) belonged; during the 'First Battle of Passchendaele' assaulted Poelcapelle and Meunier House at 0520hours, with the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), the 7th (Service) Buffs and the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surreys in single file attack formation. The East Surrey Regiment spectacular advance of approximately 500 yards was eventually brought to a halt resultant of intensive fire from two machine-guns, which were ensconced in a well constructed position approximately 100 yards east of Gloster Farm, later during the evening the brigade was reassembled, following which the officers and other ranks were

brought back to reform an assembly line, 100yards in front of the forming up tape. Sidney's battalion undertook another attack with "D" and "C" Companies, but "C" Company came under fire almost immediately from Gloster Farm and Point 37, but "D" Company managed to push on through the houses of Poelcapelle, but then came under fire from Meunier House and the Brewery, halting the attack with mounting casualties. The soldiers of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent's attacking with "B" company on the right, made quite good progress until they came under fire from the Brewery, although they were reinforced by "D" Company, the enemy fire power that they were subjected to was so intense and prolonged all they could do at the expense of even more casualties was to establish a series of posts just beyond their original line, "C" Company for a while continued to make progress until a strong point situated at the northern extremity of Poelcapelle brought them to a stop, after which they dug in to try and consolidate their gains. At midday the Germans launched a counter attack which was primarily concentrated towards the west of the village; their initial attack which was something of a probing type to try and ascertain the British strength was beaten off, as were several more later attacks 53 Brigade were in support and also had the 8th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment in the line, a significant gap between the Suffolk Regiment and the soldiers of the 4th Division was spotted by the Germans which resulted in the weak spot being attacked twice, the first of which occurred at noon and later at 0530 hours, both of which were successfully repelled.

ALDRIDGE, Private, ERNEST SIDNEY, L/9720, "A" Company, 1st Battalion.

Died of wounds 4 November 1914. Aged 21.

Born St. John's, Chatham, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of William Henry and Emma Eliza Aldridge of 5, Curzon Road, Chatham, Kent.

Buried Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, Nord, France. Grave Ref. III. G. 13.

Unfortunately it has not been possible at this point in time to add more details appertaining to where, when, or how regular soldier Ernest was mortally wounded. That said however, it does seem prudent to add that on 23 October 1914, both "A" and "C" Companies of Ernest's battalion, were involved in bitter hand-to-hand fighting during a German counter attack which they launched in front of their Brigade line. In the fighting which took place on 23 October, at least 6 other ranks in the 1st Battalion were killed in action, 3 died of wounds, and others were also wounded with Ernest probably being amongst their number. The following is a short extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "On the morning of the 20th October the Germans attacked very heavily on the whole front. Fighting on a very extended front (five miles) and with very little in hand, the Division was soon in difficulties, particularly on the exposed left flank, where the Leinsters had their three left companies quickly driven in, and the situation at midday was critical. One company with the machine-guns was able to hold on until the afternoon at Mont de Prèmesques, and to withdraw under cover of darkness, having inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. Meanwhile units of other brigades were putting up a gallant fight against great odds, each unit generally with one or both flanks unsupported. At Ennetières, which formed rather a salient, the Sherwood Foresters held out all day, but were attacked at dusk by three battalions and practically annihilated or captured, only the CO., Adjutant,

Q.M. and 250 other ranks remaining the next day. The Buffs, after a splendid fight, were driven out of Radinghem, and by night the Division was practically back on the line which it was to hold for the next few months, and on which the German offensive of 1918 still found the British. Continuous unsuccessful attempts to break through occurred till 31st October, when trench warfare set in. Notable among these was the attack on the K.S.L.I. and Y. and L. on the 23rd October, when 300 enemy dead were left in front of our trenches; on the 18th Infantry Brigade on the night of the 27/28th October, when the enemy captured the line, but was driven out by a counter-attack, in which the East Yorks specially distinguished themselves; and on the night of the 29/30th October, when the 19th Infantry Brigade lost some trenches, but counter-attacked successfully, and counted 200 German dead. The incident of Cpl. Forward, 1st The Buffs, is typical of the fierce fighting. On 30th October, when the O.C. machine-guns of The Buffs and all the team had been killed or wounded, this gallant N.C.O. continued to fire his gun until eventually wounded in five places, when he crawled back to report the situation. He was rewarded with the D.C.M. During the whole period, 20th to 30th October, the guns were woefully short of ammunition, and consequently a greater strain was thrown on the infantry." The engagement briefly touched on above by Major-General Marden, that was fought by the 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, and the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment on was ultimately hand to hand fighting, with a high proportion of enemy casualties being bayoneted whilst attempting to defend their trenches. Also on 23 October 1914, a gap developed to the east of Le Bridoux which was the result of some of the trenches being lost and others being held. To help establish what the actual situation was at the Le Bridoux trenches, a platoon of the 1st Battalion led by Lieutenant George R. Thornhill under the direction of Major W.F. Clemson (later Brigadier-General C.M.G., D.S.O., 24th Infantry Brigade), of the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment were sent forward to investigate, leaving from the Touquet-La Boutillerie road by some dongas running south. No doubt with trepidation when approaching one end of the trenches, it appeared to Lieutenant Thornhill and his men that the enemy had vacated the gap which had caused the confusion. Seizing the opportunity to occupy the former German trenches, Lieutenant Thornhill and the men he led rushed towards the trench to secure it, but were mown down by a well concealed enemy machine gun. Of necessity due to circumstances which had prevailed, George Thornhill and several other ranks who had actually got into the trench had to left behind when the ten members of the platoon who were able so to do made the return journey, bringing with them seven of their wounded comrades. Noted amongst the other acts of gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Thornhill's men on 23 October 1914 was the heroism of Private Pearce, who at great risk to himself successfully managed to drag Private Bull in to safety, but sadly was unable to reach George Thornhill who was awarded the Military Cross.

ALEXANDER, Private, ALFRED, G/249, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 August 1916.

Born Bermondsey, Surrey. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Deptford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon it. Fortunately Alfred has an entry in 'The National Roll of the Great War' which shows his address as 104 Rotherhithe New Road, Rotherhithe. S.E. 16. Alfred enlisted in the army in August 1914, and was sent to the Western Front three months later. He took part in numerous engagements with the enemy prior to his death in Delville Wood. The chain of events that led up to Alfred's death began on 6 August 1916, when plans were put in place for his battalion along with the rest of their brigade to take over frontline trenches between Guillemont and Deville Wood on the Somme, but as so often happened due to the ebb and flow of battle during the Great War, plans were altered at the very last moment, one of the resultant changes found the battalion on 9 August in reserve positions situated on the Carnoy to Montauban road, the following day several casualties occurred when British artillery fired shells which dropped short. On 12 August the battalion which was still near Carnoy was heavily shelled all day, but on that occasion by the enemy. During the night of 17 August the battalion moved forward under the cover of darkness to take up assembly points in readiness for an attack near Waterlot Farm, which had been a German strong point in their second line of defence situated between Longueval and Guillemont, which although it was called a farm, in fact was a sugar refinery that had been captured from the Germans in mid July 1916. The battalion was in action all day, with the location known as Machine Gun House eventually falling to the officers and men of "A" Company, the northern end of a trench complex named ZZ Trench was taken by "C" Company, although in terms of objectives being captured etcetera the day was a success for the battalion but it had been costly as casualties that day were 1 officer and 60 men killed plus 6 officers and 297 men wounded. Alfred Alexander was probably amongst the 60 men who were recorded as killed.

ALEXANDER, Private, ALFRED HENRY, G/1056, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 14 October 1915.

Born Bermondsey, Surrey. Enlisted London. Resided East Greenwich, Kent.

Buried Sailly-Labourse Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. L. 14.

Alfred was one of the three other ranks serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion who died of wounds on 14 October 1915. Unfortunately it has not been possible at the time of transcribing, to ascertain where, when, or how he had been mortally wounded. Although no relevant casualty card or any other similar supporting documentation has been sighted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, it would however seem very likely that Alfred's wounds were inflicted on the day prior to his demise. For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous

commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included Alfred's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery

barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by Alfred's battalion on 13 October 1915 which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

ALEXANDER, Company Serjeant Major, DAVID, L/8907, M.M.

6th (Service) Battalion.

Died Sunday 29 September 1918.

Born London. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Patrixbourne, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Panel 3, and on the Patrixbourne, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

On 26 September 1918, information came through that the 27th Division of the United States Army which was under orders of the British Fourth Army, and attached to Australian Corps, was going to launch an attack on the Germans holding part of the Hindenburg Line. As a prelude to the planned American offensive, British patrols pushed forward towards a location called Ossus Wood near the village of Epehy, but enemy held positions at Lark Post and the Quarries, both of which were strongly held and formidable positions remained in enemy hands. Early in the morning of the following day Alexander's battalion redoubled its efforts, when attacking the Quarries which resulted in the capture of approximately 150 enemy soldiers, when the British Third and Fourth Armies made a notably concerted heavy attack on the German Hindenburg Line. The role of 12th (Eastern) Division, to which the Alexander's battalion belonged was involved in pushing through and past the enemy defences at the village of Epehy, and was under orders to secure the vantage points up to the St. Quentin Canal. During the allied advance, the 12th (Eastern) Division was assigned to protect the left flank of the 27th Division of the United States Army. A number of localised actions took place at first, prior to the commencement of the main attack getting under way on Sunday 29 September, in which the 12th (Eastern) Division fought up through the formidable mass of enemy trenches in front of Ossus Wood before reaching the western outskirts of Vend'huile. This successful action gave the US Division, 46th (North) Midland and Australian Divisions to the right of the line of battle, the chance to break through the formidable fortifications of the Hindenburg Line on this most important day in the final offensive. The 12th (Eastern) Division was now twenty six miles from where the offensive had begun on 8 August, and for that ground had lost 6229 officers and men. The Division was withdrawn for rest in the areas of Savy, Acq and Aubigny, and left III Corps at this point. Alexander was one of twelve other ranks deaths which occurred on Sunday 29 September 1918, during the advance towards the village of Vend'huile. The village had nearly been reached during the 'Battle of Cambrai 1917.' It was taken by the 27th and 30th American Divisions in September 1918, and eventually cleared by the 12th (Eastern) and 18th (Eastern) Divisions on 30 September 1918. When reaching the western outskirts of Vend'huile, which in doing so had cost the 6th (Service) Battalion

casualties, both in loss of life and woundings, the officers and other ranks were not best pleased when they were attacked, and subjected to fire from an American tank. At no little risk to himself, Company Sergeant Major Smith ran to the American tank whilst it was firing on the British soldiers, and literally hammered on the hull of the tank with his rifle butt until the crew reacted to his presence, his actions doubtless reducing the battalion, and others ultimate casualty roll figures.

ALLAWAY, Private, WILLIAM THOMAS WALTER, G/8814, 1st Battalion.

Died of wounds 20 May 1916. Aged 37.

Born Peckham, Surrey. Enlisted Croydon, Surrey. Resided Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Son of William and Rebecca Allaway of Peckham, London.

Husband of Mabel Elizabeth Allaway of 12, Whitehall Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon, Surrey.

Buried Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. I. M. 25.

Unfortunately it has not been possible at the time of transcribing, to ascertain where, when, or how William had been mortally wounded. He appears to have been one of only two members serving in the 1st Battalion that died on 20 May 1916, both of whom are recorded in/on SDGW as having died of wounds.

ALLDER, Private, HENRY GEORGE, G/17877, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Sunday 14 October 1917.

Enlisted Wood Green, Middlesex. Resided Hornsey, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 17.

Although recorded by SDGW as killed in action, which might of course be correct, it would however seem more likely that Henry died of wounds received during an action fought by his battalion two days before his death. 55 Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, to which the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) belonged; during the 'First Battle of Passchendaele' assaulted Poelcapelle and Meunier House at 0520hours, with the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), the 7th (Service) Buffs and the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surreys in single file attack formation. The East Surrey Regiment spectacular advance of approximately 500 yards was eventually brought to a halt resultant of intensive fire from two machine-guns, which were ensconced in a well constructed position approximately 100 yards east of Gloster Farm, later during the evening the brigade was reassembled, following which the officers and other ranks were brought back to reform an assembly line, 100yards in front of the forming up tape. Sidney's battalion undertook another attack with "D" and "C" Companies, but "C" Company came under fire almost immediately from Gloster Farm and Point 37, but "D" Company managed to push on through the houses of Poelcapelle, but then came under fire from Meunier House and the Brewery, halting the attack with mounting casualties. The soldiers of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent's attacking with "B" company on the right, made quite good progress until they came under fire from the Brewery, although they were reinforced by "D" Company, the enemy fire power that they were subjected to was so intense and prolonged all they could do at the expense of even more casualties was to establish a series of posts just beyond their original line, "C" Company for a while continued to make progress until a strong point

situated at the northern extremity of Poelcapelle brought them to a stop, after which they dug in to try and consolidate their gains. At midday the Germans launched a counter attack which was primarily concentrated towards the west of the village; their initial attack which was something of a probing type to try and ascertain the British strength was beaten off, as were several more later attacks 53 Brigade were in support and also had the 8th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment in the line, a significant gap between the Suffolk Regiment and the soldiers of the 4th Division was spotted by the Germans which resulted in the weak spot being attacked twice, the first of which occurred at noon and later at 0530 hours, both of which were successfully repelled. The action continued throughout the day until the remnants of the battalion were relieved by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment), and Henry's battalion went to Counter Farm, which is where Henry probably actually died.

ALLEN, Private, **ALFRED LEONARD**, G/21245.

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

Died 18 September 1918. Aged 30.

Born, enlisted and resided Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Son of Alfred and Ruth Allen of 94, Victoria Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Husband of Frances Elizabeth Allen of 70, Victoria Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3. Probably Alfred is the casualty commemorated as L. ALLEN on the Dunstable, Bedfordshire civic war memorial, which is situated in the grounds of Priory Church Dunstable Bedfordshire. It was raining heavily when Alfred's battalion had commenced its attack at dawn on 18 September 1918; it was taking part in an assault on the outpost positions of the formidable enemy defences of the Hindenburg Line. Having been subjected to a combined artillery and machine gun barrage, significant numbers of German soldiers began surrendering during the infantry operations that followed. Included amongst the enemy positions that fell during the advance, was the quarries at Templeux le Gerrard, where pits, refuse heaps, holes and caves had all combined to form an ideal location for defence. In unison with other Yeomanry battalions, the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion moved on through the quarries to Hargicourt Trench, the first objective, which was captured at 0800 hours. Having been in a supporting role during the first stages of the days events, Alfred's battalion was in the lead when the attack resumed following a halt for an hour. Whilst the infantry had taken a brief respite, the artillery was being readied in preparation for a fresh barrage, which started to creep forward again as the infantry crossed between 1500 and 2000 yards towards their next assigned objectives, they being Zorga Trench and Rifle Pit Trench. Initially falling away, and then rising towards the entrenched enemy positions, nonetheless the attacking infantry crossed with a great degree of confidence, doubtless buoyed on with the earlier successes of the day, and more so due to the perfection of the supporting renewed artillery bombardment of the enemy. Although held up for some time by accurate and heavy German machine gun as they crossed towards their assigned objectives, ultimately the enemy trenches fell shortly after midday. Another push was of approximately 300 yards was made later towards the 'Exploration Line.' Although due to a variety of reasons, the whole of the line had not met with the same successes as that of the 74th (Yeomanry) Division, to which the 10th

(Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion belonged. Following the days events of 18 September 1918, the 74th (Yeomanry) Division received many compliments from higher command, having captured 18 German officers, 873 other ranks, ten 77mm field guns, three 4.2 howitzers, five trench-mortars, and almost one hundred machine guns. Prior to going to the Western Front, Alfred had served with the battalion in Palestine, and had been amongst the officers and other ranks which had joined "A" Company after 1 March 1917. N.B. Various data checked to help construct the above brief commemoration to Alfred on this Roll of Honour, has shown discrepancies regarding the order of his Christian names i.e. IWGC/CWGC and SDGW show as above, but as already stated the Dunstable, Bedfordshire civic war memorial commemorate a casualty L. ALLEN. Medal Index Card entry shows L. A. ALLEN, as does the battalion history by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Ponsonby, T.D. The 'Roll of Honour' in Historical Records of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) 1914-1919 by Colonel R. S. H. Moody C.B., commemorates Private Allen with his initials as being A. L. To add to the confusion, SDGW records the date of his death as occurring on 19 September 1918.

ALLEN, Private, BERTRAM ROWLEY, G/9376, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died of wounds 24 July 1917. Aged 32.

Born Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Emily Allen of 5, Cossington Street, Canterbury, Kent, and the late James Creighton Allen.

Buried Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. V. A. 31.

Commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

Unfortunately it has not been possible at the time of transcribing these brief commemorations, to ascertain where, when, or how Bertram had been mortally wounded. Bertram's was the only death in his battalion on 24 July 1917. The area around the village of Duisans was occupied by Commonwealth forces from March 1916, but it was not until February 1917 that the site of the cemetery where Bertram is at rest was selected for the 8th Casualty Clearing Station. The first burials took place in March and from the beginning of April the cemetery grew very quickly, with burials being made from the 8th Casualty Clearing Station (until April 1918), the 19th (until March 1918), and the 41st (until July 1917). Most of the graves in the cemetery relate to the 'Battles of Arras 1917,' and the trench warfare that followed.

ALLEN, Private, CHARLES HENRY, G/4537, 1st Battalion.

Died 20 April 1916. Aged 28.

Born and resided Fulham, Middlesex. Enlisted Kilburn, Middlesex.

Son of William Charles Allen.

Buried La Brique Military Cemetery No.2, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. I. T. 18.

Only two deaths in the 1st Battalion are recorded in/on SDGW as actually occurring on 20 April 1916, with Charles being the only man listed as having been killed in action on that date. On the day prior to the recorded date of Charles's death, whilst his battalion was occupying trenches at La Briques, the Germans subjected the trenches to shelling throughout the day. A particularly heavy enemy artillery bombardment was commenced at 1700 hours. Casualties suffered by Charles's battalion were mainly to the members of

No15 platoon. To the right of the 1st Battalion, the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards was in the line, and suffered over a dozen casualties, and on the other side of Charles's battalion the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment was in the trenches, and they suffered far worse, with casualties amounting for the day eventually numbering approximately 250, which had included the deaths of 4 officers and 55 other ranks. When the enemy infantry attacked following the artillery bombardment, the Buffs and the Scots Guards again got off comparatively lightly when compared to the officers and other ranks of the Bedfordshire Regiment. Resulting from the ferocious enemy attack on the Bedfordshire Regiment, they gained a footing in its trenches named D20, Willow Walk and S18a - D21, B17a and B16, but which were still heroically and resolutely held by the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Two days later all the ground which had fallen to the Germans was retaken by the 1st Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry. During the retaking of the ground which had been lost, 45 year old Lieutenant Colonel Edward B. Luard, D.S.O commanding the battalion was amongst those who fell.

ALLEN, Second Lieutenant, CHARLES St. VINCENT.

The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), attached to the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died 16 February 1917.

Buried Bells Hill Burial Ground, Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Hertfordshire. Grave Ref. Plot B.1. Grave 252.

Charles has a dual Medal Index Card entry indicative of overseas active service during the Great War, which in addition to showing him as a Second Lieutenant, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment); he is also shown as formerly having been Private, PS/1479, Middlesex Regiment. Although the Medal Index Card entry does not show same, but in the case of the Middlesex Regiment, the PS prefix on regimental numbers was indicative of other ranks members of the 16th (Service) (Public Schools) Battalion.

ALLEN, Lance Corporal, EDWARD AUBREY, G/3411, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 26 September 1915. Aged 20.

Born Banbury, Oxfordshire. Enlisted London. Resided Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Son of Herbert and Frances Blanche Allen of Council Houses, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

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

Grave Ref. VI. G. 26.

The 8th Battalion commanded by Colonel Frederick Charles Romer C.B., C.M.G. Sailed from Folkestone, Kent and arrived in Boulogne, France on 1 September 1915 where it then spent two days, after which a move was made to billets at the little village of Maningham near Etaples, Pas de Calais, to undertake divisional training. Edward's battalion remained at Maningham until 21 September 1915, when a march was undertaken by the battalion to assemble at the concentration area in preparation for the 'Battle of Loos,' the battalion marched to Bethune arriving early in the morning on 25 September, at 1100 hours the battalion formed up for Colonel Romer to address the officers and other ranks, short but to the point he said, "I am not going to make a speech to you, but only ask you to remember that you are THE BUFFS." Following their Colonels 'speech' the battalion then made another move nearer to the battle heading for Vermelles to take part

in an attack which was planned for later that night. Marching over difficult terrain their division reached positions in the area of Bois Hugo, Chalk Pit Wood, Chalet Wood and Hill 70 Redoubt, which were advanced positions that faced the German's second line. A proposed attack planned for that night was eventually postponed, and the battalion received fresh orders which stated that they were to take part in an attack the following morning. Just twenty four days after landing in France, and significantly with most of the officers and other ranks in the battalion never having been in action before, at 1030 hours on the following morning, orders were received by the 24th Division, (which included the 8th Battalion) for an attack to begin at 1100 hours, with the battalion detailed to attack the village of Hulluch. Set out below is the 8th Battalion War Diary entry for part of the 26 September 1915. "At 10.30 a.m. verbal orders arrived to prepare for an attack at 11 o'clock a.m. Almost at once the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of our trenches. At 11 a.m. an attack across open country commenced, the objective being a German position about a mile away. Artillery formation was adopted on leaving the trenches, but long distance rifle fire caused us to extend our lines almost immediately. The Buffs were supporting the West Kents. The advance was carried forward rapidly and by 11.30 a.m. the leading lines of the Buffs had arrived within 25 yards of the German barbed wire. No gaps could be observed in the wire entanglements. During the advance a heavy fire from machine guns on both flanks was encountered. At 1155 a.m. an order came down the line from the right to withdraw. The enemy's fire especially from our left flank became heavier and very considerable losses occurred. The Buffs were relieved during the night 26/27th 1915. Rested in a field close by Saily La Bourse." Because of the way that war diary entries are written, with their original intention not being for the benefit of amateur historians and the like, the above omits to adequately emphasize that when the battalion attacked at Hulluch, they had to cross a stretch of 'No Mans Land' approximately a mile wide, in tandem with the rest of the 72nd Brigade the battalion with mounting casualties eventually managed to reach their designated objective, despite being constantly heavily enfiladed by well placed enemy machine guns, only to then find that the enemy wire was still mainly intact in front of it. The Division to the battalion's right was subsequently forced to withdraw, which resulted in the right flank being exposed to even more enemy attention primarily in the form of machine gun fire and Germans artillery shellfire, incredibly the 8th Battalion withstood the enemies superior firepower for a full four hours before inevitably being forced to withdraw, during which time more casualties were inflicted on The Buffs, as can be seen from the war diary entry were relieved that night and initially fell back to Noeux les Mines where they bivouacked in pouring rain. The casualties to the battalion resulting from its first significant engagement of the Great War were truly staggering, as they amounted to at least 24 officers and 610 other ranks killed, wounded or missing, of that number 2 officers and 158 other ranks died on the day of the engagement which was fought by the battalion on 26 September 1915. Inevitably a significant number later succumbed to their wounds, resultant of the action fought at Hulluch. Amongst the officers the battalion only had one young officer Second Lieutenant J. Vaughan that was not a casualty, subsequently he was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry when leading the other ranks remnants of the battalion from the battle.

ALLEN, Lieutenant, GEOFFREY CHARLES, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died of wounds 5 April 1918. Aged 22.

Son of Henry Charles and Ethel Augusta Allen of Lee, Kent.

Buried Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No 1, Somme, France.

Grave Ref. VI. A. 22.

Having spent 29 March 1918 in a support position in Martinsart Wood, to the west of Martinsart village on the Somme, Geoffrey's battalion were relieved, and marched back to the village of Warloy and remained there for a period of three days throughout which time the rain was incessant, but due to intelligence reports of another imminent concerted attack by the enemy, the battalion was quickly marched to Hénencourt on 2 April to take up defensive positions in readiness for the fresh German offensive. On 5 April Hénencourt was very heavily bombarded by German artillery, who to some extent were 'blind firing' due to the thick fog which prevailed in the area at the time. Orders had been received by the division (12th Eastern) for an attack on Amiens, with the battalion under orders to go forward and occupy the reverse slope of a ridge which ran to the front of their position. At 1905 hours moving through an intense barrage, the battalion carried out their allotted orders moving forward in artillery formation, to a position called the 'Old Copse Line' which was located to the west of the town of Albert. Later the same day the battalion was joined at the new location by the officers and other ranks of the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), who had been evacuated from Hénencourt due to increased enemy shelling. Both of the battalions were bombarded by shells whilst ensconced at and near the 'Old Copse Line.' As the planned infantry attack never actually materialized, it would seem likely that the members of Geoffrey's battalion who lost their lives on 5 April 1918, was probably as the result of German artillery shelling of the original position, whilst moving forward and also once at the new position. Geoffrey was one of three officers in his battalion to lose their lives during the events briefly touched on above, as 29 year Second Lieutenant Leslie J.G. Davis was killed, and 20 year old Second Lieutenant Charles S. Newcomb died of wounds. In addition to the officer casualties, a dozen other ranks also fell. Second Lieutenant Peter M. Dorman and thirty three other ranks were wounded to varying degrees of seriousness.

ALLEN, Private, GEORGE, L/7633, 2nd Battalion.

Died 3 May 1915.

Born and resided Sidcup, Kent. Enlisted New Cross, Kent.

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

On 1 May 1915 the George's battalion had a fresh draft of other ranks join it in Belgium direct from England, who due primarily to time constraints were not initially allotted to the different companies in the 2nd Battalion, and it was decided to locate the new men in a new support trench in front of a wood. All of the positions occupied by the battalion were subjected to an extraordinary amount of enemy shellfire the day after the arrival of the fresh draft, with numerous casualties being inflicted on the battalion. Several commentators have made very similar comments when referring to the days' events, along the lines of the British artillery guns being virtually powerless to offer support and return shellfire onto the German artillery gun emplacements. Many of the same commentators, and also probably of more important significance and relevance, is some

of the correspondence which was written by some of the survivors who had served in the battalion during late April and early May 1915, with the writers of same commenting about not getting artillery support due to the lack of the gunners ammunition. Many of the gunners also became casualties, as the direct result of being fired upon by enemy field guns. During the hours of darkness on the night of 2/3 May the intensity of the German shelling subsided, but at first light on the morning of Monday 3 May 1915, the artillery bombardment of the battalion positions was once again renewed. Throughout the whole of the day on Monday 3 May the enemy guns continued to fire at will, and as on the previous day, the doubtless frustrated British gunners were unable to offer all but a token reply. During the morning 38 year old Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon who was commanding at that time, reported many casualties, and that the trench parapets had been blown in and that the situation was critical. Later it became even worse, with the bombardment being so rapid as to being likened to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire. One of the trenches held by the battalion called D.5, was rushed by enemy infantry, but it would seem that none of the members of "C" Company who had been ensconced in the trench, were at that time in a position to offer any form of resistance during the German assault. Captain L. Howard Smith, Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, and approximately eighty other ranks had formerly occupied D.5, but had all been killed or wounded, and all were later reported as missing. At the time of George's death, there were no communication trenches in common use, and as such the parties of soldiers of varying sizes, were to all intents and purposes isolated and cut-off from help and/or support once in place in the allocated trenches, or other forms of defensive cover such as shell holes, the reason being that as the engagements raged, it would have been far too hazardous to cross above ground between the trenches. Probably due to the fact that D.5 fell to the enemy, who had also possessed woods located behind that particular trench complex, it appears to have had the knock on effect of another trench (D.4), also being captured by enemy infantry. Following the capture of D.5, by the enemy soldiers, D.4 was then subjected to fire by the Germans, who had taken over the occupancy of the former 2nd Battalion trench. Compounding the perilous position faced by the members of the battalion in D.4 was the enemy firing coming from the nearby wood in the enemies' hands. Captain Houblon, and a Lieutenant Sharp along with other what remained of "D" Company, and a few stragglers made gallant efforts to remain in trench D.4, but resulting from the firing coming in from both sides, their position became virtually un-defendable, necessitating a withdrawal along the trench line, a maneuver that was conducted with commendable steady order and control. To assist with the final withdrawal from D.4, at great risk to themselves, covering fire was provided by Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, and by Private, 7852, Frederick Campbell who were both members of "C" Company, miraculously both of whom managed to extricate themselves from the trench whilst under heavy fire. Although he was wounded during the fierce engagement, Lieutenant Sharp and the survivors of Captain Houblon's party eventually managed to reach trench D.3, and later reached D.1, which was held by Captain Barnard with "A" Company. A small party of members of the battalion led by Second Lieutenant, Ellis Brockman, Backhouse, and a company of soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), led by Captain R. Ford, did however manage to tenaciously hold on to a new support trench, during which time they were subjected to horrendous enfilade fire from enemy heavy howitzers and other artillery pieces. In much the same way that

the earlier withdrawals had been steadily conducted, the battalion later moved back to bivouacs located in a wood near Poperinghe, taking with it all the wounded that could be moved, spare ammunition, tools, and equipment being taken with the battalion. Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and received his commission. The relevant London Gazette entry for his D.C.M., dated 30 June 1915, reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 3rd May 1915, in holding on to a trench to the last, covering the retirement of his men to another position. The enemy, of whom he killed many, were only yards away." Frederick Campbell who also made the heroic rearguard stand with Ernest G. Port D.C.M., apparently was not even Mentioned in Despatches, or "B" for Record, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers, and served as a Serjeant in a Railway Company. Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, was later promoted to Captain and became an Adjutant, Captain L. Howard Smith, was later promoted to Major, and Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon, who was a son of Colonel George Archer Houblon, was also promoted to the rank of Major, and was attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Major Henry Houblon later inherited the Hallingbury Place Estate, Essex which had been used extensively by the British army during the Great War, and offered it on lease, but possibly resultant of the prevailing economic climate which prevailed at that time no one came forward, and eventually it was put up for sale. In October 1923, the great house was demolished, and the materials and contents put up for sale and the estate broken up. Due primarily to the fact that George had not been an officer, it has not been possible thus far to be able to ascertain how, when, or where he actually died, during the somewhat one-sided engagement that was fought by the 2nd Battalion on 3 May 1915, which I know to have cost the lives of at least 144 other ranks. It is particularly regrettable that the names etcetera, of many of the men who had joined the battalion as members of the drafts, that had been posted to the battalion on 30 April & 1 May 1915, were initially not known, and as such it would probably be fair to assume that in many cases that unfortunate status is still applicable at this point in time (June 2004). It has also been frustrating to have not been able thus far, to ascertain the time amount of time that George had spent serving in the battalion, or if was of only less than a week, which would be applicable to those who joined via the last two drafts to the 2nd Battalion.

ALLEN, Private, GEORGE, G/15534, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 27 May 1917. Aged 23.

Born and resided Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Kate Allen of 48, Black Bull Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, 1514, 2/1st Kent Cyclists Battalion.

As George is one of the two members of his battalion who lost their lives on 27 May 1917, the other being 19 year old Second Lieutenant, Sinclair Johnston from Toronto, Canada, it is almost certain that George was the other rank who is recorded as dying alongside the young officer, unfortunately it was/is usual practice in most available records, books etcetera only to name officer casualties, but as reference is made to only a single other rank casualty on the day that George died, it has been assumed by the transcriber of this brief commemoration that he is the man concerned. Having been one

of the survivors of the battalions part in the fighting at Cherisy, George went with the rest of the battalion into front line trenches on 21 May 1917, the enemy were entrenched so close to the battalions position that the German soldiers could be clearly heard talking, due in part to the perilous situation the battalion was in and it being good military practice so to do, a considerable amount of patrolling was undertaken by the battalion members, either when warranted large patrols but mainly small scale affairs to keep a watch on the opposition. On May 27 1917, George and Sinclair left the 'safety' of their trench to reconnoitre in preparation for an attack planned for the following morning, neither man was seen again, later (German) reports indicated that both had been mortally wounded and carried into the German lines where they received medical treatment but to no avail, Sinclair Johnston is also commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

ALLEN, Private, HAROLD JOHN, G/25933. 1st Battalion.

Killed in action 3 October 1918?

Born and resided Haynes, Bedfordshire. Enlisted Bedford, Bedfordshire.

Buried Ramicourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France. Grave Ref: B.40.

Commemorated on the Haynes, Bedfordshire civic war memorial.

Harold's death is recorded as having occurred on 8 October 1918 on/in SDGW, and is probably correct. The village of Bellenglise which lies approximately five miles to the north of St. Quentin, Aisne, France, was captured by the 46th (North Midland) Division at the end of September 1918, and it was to the Bellenglise area that Harold's battalion marched on 4 October 1918, going into various billets on the banks of the St. Quentin canal. On the night of 5/6 October, as part of the 16th Brigade, 6th Division, the 1st Battalion in unison with the rest of their brigade, relieved the officers and other ranks of the 3rd Brigade around Preselles Farm, located between Ramicourt and Sequehart, and being opposite the enemy position to be attacked, that was set in rolling downland countryside which was divided by a valley opening out towards the British, and closed at the far end by the village of Mericourt. Of significance in the valley was Mannikin Wood, and several other locations that were eminently suitable for hidden machine guns, with the British 6th Division detailed to attack up a left spur which formed a boundary of the valley, and French troops detailed to attack up the left one. Due to the delay of the formations passing through St. Quentin, and subsequently being held up by the enemy, the allied planned offensive in the area was postponed, but only for twenty four hours. On the night of 7/8 October, Harold's battalion returned from Bellenglise for a second time to its forming up line, the relevant 'Operation Order' issued explained that 16th Infantry Brigade was to attack on the right, with its outer (right) flank covered by a special detachment of 18th Infantry Brigade which was provided with tanks. 16th Infantry Brigade attack to be exploited according to circumstances, in conjunction with supporting artillery, and that the 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry would move off at 0510 hours and capture the first objective; after which the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) would advance through the 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, in liaison with the 21st Battery, Royal Field Artillery, and attack the entrenched enemy to the front of Beauregard Farm. The 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment would attack Mericourt from a north-westerly direction, whilst liaising with the 53rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Whilst Harold's battalion like all the other Great War era infantry battalions, had for the most part been generally primarily reliant on proper

artillery support to ensure tactical success, towards the closing stages of the war they were on some occasions able to achieve local victories with their own weapons systems. The automatic firepower available to them by the end of the war was immense, and the attack order for Harold's battalion on the day he fell had specified the use of fifty Lewis guns by each of the assaulting companies. Due primarily to the combination of the darkness and the difficulty in guiding, the 1st Battalion was not in position until only fifteen minutes prior to zero hour, despite which its 'Operation Orders' were carried out as planned, but 37 year old Lieutenant Hugh H. Carter, the son of former Buffs R.S.M. William Carter was killed, along with his Batman prior to zero hour. At the appointed time the attack got under way, and the first of the days objective fell to the assaulting 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, after which Harold's battalion quickly moved on to the next designated objective, with "B" and "D" Companies leading, "C" and half of "A" Companies in support, and the remainder of "A" Company held back in reserve. Shelling from the other side of the valley was very heavy which by the estimated time had not been reached by the French troops who were taking part in the attack, in addition to which a substantial amount of enemy fire was coming from Mannikin Wood in the actual valley was kept up, despite the heroic action fought by the 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment. As it appeared that a German counter attack was imminent, Second Lieutenant George Stainforth was ordered to lead forward the two platoons that had been held in reserve, and to get in touch with the front and if necessary reinforce it. By the time that battalion headquarters moved forward at 1145 hours, it found the situation going well at the battalion front, although at that time no reorganization was possible because any movement was quickly spotted by the enemy from the right. Throughout the entire day, the personnel of "A" and "C" Companies were subjected to a lot of unwelcome enemy artillery shelling from .77 guns, although a defensive flank was formed later in the day, and by 1500 hours the French troops began to advance, and their involvement completely altered the situation in favour of the allies. By late afternoon and early evening the companies had been reorganised as the situation changed, and patrols were pushed forward towards through Beauregard Farm and copse, with a line being established from the east of those locations. By nightfall Mericourt was captured by the 6th Division having by that time done all that it had been assigned for the day.

ALLEN, Private, HARVEY PERCY, G/6767, 2nd Battalion.

Died of wounds 11 October 1915. Aged 25.

Born St. Pancras, Middlesex 23 April 1890. Enlisted Islington, Middlesex 25 September 1914. Resided Camden Town, Middlesex.

Second son of Henry George and Laura Allen of Kentish Town, London.

Buried Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, Seine-Maritime, France.

Grave Ref. Division 19. J. 9.

Harvey was educated at the Carlton Road Board School, Kentish Town, London; he volunteered for service in the army, and had served with the British Expeditionary Force from 26 June 1915. Mortally wounded on 4 October 1915, Harvey succumbed to his wounds a week later whilst a patient at the 2nd General Hospital, which one of the three general, and two stationary hospitals, plus four convalescent depots that were based at Le Havre, Seine-Maritime, France during the Great War years. It was noted that there were thankfully no other ranks deaths in the 2nd Battalion on the day of Harvey's wounding

are recorded in/on SDGW. Having apparently survived the carnage suffered by his battalion during the fighting at the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the 'Dump,' it seems particularly tragic that Harvey was wounded just a few days after being withdrawn to billets and comparative safety.

ALLEN, Lance Corporal, HENRY JAMES, G/3408, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 4 November 1915.

Born Clerkenwell, Middlesex. Enlisted London. Resided Islington, Middlesex.

Buried Hedge Row Trench Cemetery, Zillebeke, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. Special Memorial. E. 6.

On 4 November 1915 only five other ranks deaths in the 8th (Service) Battalion are recorded in/on SDGW, all of which are shown as having been killed in action. Four of those who fell on that date have Special Memorials at Hedge Row Trench Cemetery at Zillebeke, and the other casualty, Private Frank Henry Amos Patrick is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, and in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Charing, Ashford, Kent. Following the high number of casualties that were inflicted on the 8th (Service) Battalion during the Battle of Loos, as with all the other battalions which comprised the 24th Division, Henry's battalion did not take part in any major large scale offensive for several months, the Divisional losses for Loos having been 4,178. A lot of time was spent by the battalion post Loos, around the Ploegsteert Wood area of Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.

ALLEN, Lance Corporal, STUART, G/13700, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 3 May 1917.

Born Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leicestershire. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of William Allen of 39, Dour Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2. In addition to the aforementioned commemoration, Stuart has several local forms of remembrance; they being the Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and at the Congregational Church, (now in the United Reformed Church), Dover. Stuart is also commemorated on the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company war memorial located at the former Marine Station, Dover, Kent, having pre enlistment been employed by the railway company as a Saloon Waiter. At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however

that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance," also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant's Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent

Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a “Buff,” we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram M.C. later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C. Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both R.F.C. officers thankfully survived the war.

ALLEN, Private, THOMAS, G/20216, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Killed in action 5 April 1918. Aged 42.

Born Great Massingham, Norfolk. Enlisted and resided Hounslow, Middlesex.

Son of Alfred and Hannah Allen of Great Massingham, King’s Lynn, Norfolk.

Husband of Edith Allen of 156, Uxbridge Road, Hanwell, Middlesex.

Buried Millencourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave Ref. C. 42.

At the time of the 1881 census, an Allen family resided at Castle Acre Road, Great Massingham, King’s Lynn, Norfolk. Thomas was probably the 4 year old shown on the census entry below. It would appear that Alfred Allen, an Agricultural Labourer, and Head of the house was Thomas’s brother-in-law.

ALFRED ALLEN. Aged 29. Born Bircham Tofts, Norfolk. (Son In Law).

HONOR ALLEN. Aged 26. Born Great Massingham, Norfolk.

ANNIE ALLEN. Aged 3. Born Great Massingham, Norfolk.

ALFRED ALLEN. Aged 1. Born Great Massingham, Norfolk.

THOMAS ALLEN. Aged 4. Born Great Massingham, Norfolk.

Having spent 29 March 1918 in a support position in Martinsart Wood, to the west of Martinsart village on the Somme, Thomas’s battalion were relieved, and marched back to the village of Warloy and remained there for a period of three days throughout which time the rain was incessant, but due to intelligence reports of another imminent concerted attack by the enemy, the battalion was quickly marched to Hénencourt on 2 April to take up defensive positions in readiness for the fresh German offensive. On 5 April Hénencourt was very heavily bombarded by German artillery, who to some extent were ‘blind firing’ due to the thick fog which prevailed in the area at the time. Orders had been received by the division (12th Eastern) for an attack on Amiens, with the battalion under orders to go forward and occupy the reverse slope of a ridge which ran to the front of their position. At 1905 hours moving through an intense barrage, the battalion carried out their allotted orders moving forward in artillery formation, to a position called the ‘Old Copse Line’ which was located to the west of the town of Albert. Later the same day the battalion was joined at the new location by the officers and other ranks of the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey Regiment), who had been evacuated from Hénencourt due to increased enemy shelling. Both of the battalion’s were bombarded by shells whilst ensconced at and near the ‘Old Copse Line.’ As the planned infantry attack never actually materialized, it would seem likely that the members of Thomas’s battalion who lost their lives on 5 April 1918, was probably as the result of

German artillery shelling of the original position, whilst moving forward and also once at the new position.

ALLEN, Private, THOMAS HENRY, G/13622, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 3 May 1917.

Born, enlisted and resided Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial.

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G.

Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance," also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant's Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a "Buff," we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram M.C. later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C. Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both R.F.C. officers thankfully survived the war.

ALLFREY, Captain, HUGH LIONEL.

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

Killed in action 18 September 1918. Aged 37.

Born 27 August 1881.

Youngest son of Edward Richmond Allfrey of Old Place, Sandhurst, Kent.

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

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

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

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

ALLIBONE, Private, GEORGE, 3209, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 4 July 1916.

Born Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. Enlisted Birmingham, Warwickshire. Resided Small Heath, Birmingham, Warwickshire.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref. XXII. A. 4.

It was noted that on/in SDGW, the three members of the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion who died on 4 July 1916 were all recorded as 'Died,' as opposed to killed in action or died of wounds etcetera, probably being indicative that their deaths were resulting from an illness or disease.

ALLISON, Private, HENRY JOHN, G/20235, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 9 April 1917.

Born Trunch, Norfolk. Enlisted Norwich, Norfolk. Resided Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk.

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

The following record of the events of the day on which Henry died is as extracted from 'The History of the 12th (Eastern) Division in the Great War 1914-1918,' edited by Major-General Sir Arthur B. Scott, K.C.B, D.S.O., who for two and a half years had commanded the division. The book was compiled by the Reverend P. Middleton Brumwell, M.C., C.F., a popular Canadian Chaplain who served in the 12th (Eastern) Division, and was later awarded the C.B.E. "Zero was fixed for Monday, April 9th, and sharp at 5.30am, the leading waves of the infantry advanced to the assault under cover of a creeping barrage, stated by all units to have been most effective. Owing to the suddenness of the attack many of the Germans were unable to emerge from their dug-outs, which had very narrow entrances, in time to oppose our advance. Resistance was rapidly overcome and the front system (black line), consisting of four lines of trenches, was occupied to time. The battalions which carried out this operation were the 6th Queen's (Rolls) and 7th East Surrey (Baldwin) of 37th, the 11th Middlesex (Wollocombe) and 7th Royal Sussex (Sanson) of 36th Brigade. The counter battery work had practically silenced the German guns, and the leading troops halted on the black line to clear up the captured ground, and allow the supporting battalions to pass through and form up for the second phrase. At 7.30 am the advance was continued by the 6th Buffs (Cope), 6th Royal West Kent (Dawson) of 37th, the 9th Royal Fusiliers (Overton), and the 8th Royal Fusiliers (Elliot-Cooper) of 36th Brigade, the creeping barrage again moving forward at 100 yards every four minutes. This further advance entailed the crossing of Scott's valley and the capture of Observation ridge, on the western face of which the German second system consisted of a series of entrenched works, heavily wired and strongly defended by machine guns and brave fighters. The capture of this position did not prove such an easy proposition as anticipated, which of two tanks detailed for rendezvous, and the other failed to cross our trenches. As a consequence the infantry had to do without their assistance. Some portions of this system were carried by the assault, but some offered considerable resistance, only to be overcome by outflanking movements, initiated by individuals, or small parties working in co-operation. Houlette and Holt works, however, held out. Much opposition was encountered on the extreme left from the position known as Feuchy Switch. Here the 8th Royal Fusiliers, moving in conjunction with a battalion of the 15th Division on their left, worked to the north and overcame it. This movement resulted in cutting off the retreat of the enemy holding Hart Work, and 200 prisoners were taken there, Second Lieutenant Beames being awarded the Military Cross for his bravery and leadership. During this operation Corporal G Moakes crawled forward and, reaching a German trench, secured a prisoner and took him back to his commanding officer, who thereby gained valuable information as to the enemy's disposition, materially assisting in the success. On the capture of Heron, Hamel and Hart Works, the 9th and 8th Royal Fusiliers pushed on, gaining Habarcq and Hem trenches. Here their advance was delayed by machine gun fire from Observation Ridge. The 7th East Surrey, which had gained its objective in the first phrase, as consolidating its position, when Sergeant H Cator of that battalion found his platoon was suffering

severely by machine gun fire coming from Hangest Trench. On his own initiative, and taking another man with him, he advanced across the open, The other man was killed after going about 50 yards, but Sergeant Cator, continuing by himself, picked up a Lewis gun and some drums of ammunition on his way, and succeeded in entering the northern end of the trench. Having discovered the position of the machine gun which was causing the casualties, he opened fire, eventually killing the whole team and the officer in charge, whose papers he afterwards brought in. He continued to hold that end of the attack until Sergeant Jarrott and a bombing squad arrived, and attacking the enemy in flank, drove them out. This action greatly assisted the advance of the Royal West Kent Regiment, which has been temporarily held up, and Sergeant Cator, for his deed of daring, received the Victoria Cross. Owing to the strong resistance met with, the blue line had not been completely captured in the scheduled time. Nevertheless, General Scott ordered the 35th Brigade to advance according to the plans laid down, considering its appearance on the battlefield would force the Germans, still holding out, to surrender. This brigade, which had been located in the cellars in Arras, proceeded through the tunnel to the caves, and thence, as the enemy's artillery fire on our trenches was negligible, it debouched and, moving over the top, closed up to the leading troops of the 12th Division. At 12.15pm, the 7th Norfolks on the right with the 5th Royal Berkshire echeloned on the left, followed by the 7th Suffolk and 9th Essex battalions, passed through the 37th and 36th Brigades. The 7th Norfolks (Walter) rapidly overcame the remaining opposition in Haucourt Trench and Houlette Work, and a platoon of "B" Company, 5th Royal Berkshire, outflanking Holt, that stronghold, with a garrison of thirty-five men with a machine gun, surrendered. Thus at 1.5 pm, the blue line was definitely in our possession. The real task of the 35th Brigade, the capture of the brown line, now commenced. There was no intervening system of trenches, but opposition was expected at Maison Rouge, and the enemy's batteries were known to be in the valley that had to be traversed. The plan was to capture Feuchy-Chapel Redoubt and its surroundings, and to pierce the line just west of Orange Hill. On the capture of the blue line the Germans, becoming disorganised, were caught on the run, and the 35th Infantry Brigade had the joy of seeing them retreating in disorder. Those overtaken were only too willing to obey instructions and move down the main road to Arras to report as prisoners. The 7th Norfolks pushed forward to level with the Bois des Boeufs, and Captain Gethin, giving the enemy no time to think, dashed on and, seizing the Maison Rouge, which was the completion of his task, continued until brought to a halt before Feuchy Chapel Redoubt. The 7th Suffolk (Cooper) and 9th Essex (Trevor) now proceeded to the final objective. The Essex gained Feuchy Chapel Redoubt, but the greater portion of this attack was stopped by Church Work, uncut wire, and machine guns. The tanks which had been detailed to assist in the capture of this position were out of action, two having been set on fire by the enemy's guns, and two having stuck in the mud. All attempts to cut the wire by hand and proceed were frustrated, and a line was taken up along the Feuchy Road, the 3rd Division on the right being held up in a similar manner. Meanwhile the 5th Royal Berkshire (Willan) advancing on the left, found itself in front of four German batteries of artillery, firing point blank at a range of about 400 yards. Undeterred, and if anything, enthused by the sight, the troops charged forward, and by means of short rushes and concentrated fire, reached the batteries, and eighteen field guns, four howitzers, and forty prisoners, were captured. On this occasion Lieutenants J M Reday and G P Debeno, CSM Arthur Blake and Private McAllister

distinguished themselves by their leadership and fearless courage. So keen were the men that, with the assistance of a Royal Artillery officer, who accompanied the battalion, they manned the captured guns and opened fire on the retreating enemy. The attack continued towards Orange Hill, but was held up by the uncut wire, and finally the 5th Royal Berkshire took up a line on the Feuchy Road in continuation of the Essex.”

ALLISON, Private, WILLIAM EDWARD, T/200757, "A" Company, 1st Battalion.
Died 16 October 1917.

Born St James's, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.

Buried Loos British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. XX. A. 8.

William was amongst the eight members of his company who were killed in action on Friday 16 October 1917, in addition to which three others were wounded, one of whom died later the same day. It would seem likely that all had been the victims of enemy shellfire following a barrage of the 1st Battalion front line, which had commenced at 0800 hours. During the period when William lost his life, his battalion as part of the 6th Division, from 24 September 1917 was in the Cité St. Emile sector just north of Lens. Whilst in the Cité St. Emile sector the battalion commenced preparations for an attack planned to take place north of Lens. The envisaged attack was to be carried out in conjunction with the projected attack by the Canadian Corps on Sallaumines Hill. Prior to its commencement the proposed attack was abandoned, and on 23 October the 6th Division was withdrawn into a rest area near St. Hilaire to the west of Lillers.

ALLSEBROOK, Private, JOHN HENRY RICHARD EYRE, G/29102.
7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Sunday 22 September 1918. Aged 21.

Born East Kirkby, Nottinghamshire. Enlisted Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.
Resided Kirkby, Nottinghamshire.

Son of William and Ellen Allsebrook of Pinxton, Derbyshire.

Husband of Maud A. Higham (formerly Allsebrook) of 45, Derby Road, East Kirkby, Nottinghamshire.

Buried Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave Ref. I. D. 9.

Commemorated on the Kirkby, Nottinghamshire civic war memorial.

John's is the only death which is recorded in/on SDGW, as being to a member of the 7th (Service) Battalion on 22 September 1918. Recorded as having died of wounds, regrettably it has not been possible at this point in time to add at this brief tribute, actually where, when and how John had been mortally wounded. It was noticed by the transcriber during these transcriptions, and on one of the visits to the cemetery where John is at rest, that another casualty of the 7th (Service) Battalion, with a similar regimental number and who also died of wounds only a few days prior to John came from the same general area of Nottinghamshire, and is at rest near him, the other soldier being Private, G/29110, Godfrey Bradshaw.

ALMOND, Private, ALBERT ROUSE, G/6578, 2nd Battalion.

Died 28 September 1915. Aged 27.

Born and resided Brightlingsea, Colchester, Essex. Enlisted Colchester, Essex.

Son of Mrs. Ada C. Potter (formerly Almond) of The Bungalow, Station Road, Thorrington, Colchester, Essex.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

Having already suffered heavy casualties during the Second Battle of Ypres, commanded by 41 year old Boer War veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Claude A. Worthington, the 2nd Battalion travelled from Bailleul to the devastated village of Vermelles, where it arrived at 1300 hours on 27 September 1915, as part of the 28th Division to take part in the Battle of Loos 1915 (25 September-19 October 1915). With the benefit of hindsight many regrettably costly errors can be seen appertaining to the Battle of Loos. When compared to the actions that had been fought by the British army during the spring of the same year, Loos was a much larger undertaking, which was carried out by six divisions, and as such was justifiably referred to as "The Big Push." The battle was fought over ground that was not the choice of the British, and at a time prior to the required stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery being available in sufficient quantities for the undertaking. Having rallied international sympathy, following the German's use of poison gas for the first time in April 1915, the opening of the battle was noteworthy as being the first occasion that poison gas was used by the British Army. General Douglas Haig had issued orders for the release of the gas, and an artillery bombardment, at 0550 hours on 25 September 1915 with the main infantry attack timed to commence forty minutes later. Despite incurring heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day, in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. Unfortunately the infantry reserves had been held to far back from the battle front, to be able to exploit the costly successes that had been achieved, which resulted in the succeeding days being bogged down into attritional warfare for comparatively only minor gains. At a stage and location which during the battle was described by the Commander-in-Chief as being "distinctly precarious," Major (later Lieutenant Colonel D.S.O.) Miles Beevor, was ordered to lead "A" and "D" Companies to relieve parties to the north of a location named 'Fosse 8' which was a coal mine with a huge slag dump, and located to the south of the village of Auchy-les-Mines. The German defenses at 'Fosse 8' had included the formidable Hohenzollern Redoubt. On reaching the allotted position, the officers and other ranks of "A" and "D" Companies were probably surprised to find that it had been already abandoned. Commanding the 85th Brigade, 28th Division to which the 2nd Battalion belonged, was former Brigade of Guards officer, Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, (later Major-General Sir C.E. Pereira, K.C.B., C.M.G.), who had accompanied them, and he ordered Major Beevor's companies to establish themselves in the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Due to the congestion which prevailed at that time in the communication trench, the decision was taken to cross above ground, to comply with the Brigadier-General's fresh orders, and attempt to reach their fresh location and assault the enemy at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Several casualties occurred during the hazardous overland route as the soldiers were subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling. Included amongst those wounded was Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, and his Brigade-Major, who was Captain Flower, and Lieutenant Geoffrey Cory-Wright commanding "D" Company, who later served in the Royal Flying Corps and R.A.F. Once at the enemy position, a platoon of

"D" Company charged the Germans and killed about twenty of their number. Throughout the night the soldiers of "A" and "D" Companies remained at the new position, during which time bombing parties were particularly active, and the evacuation of the wounded was carried out under difficult circumstances, due to the heavy rain, conditions underfoot and the distance they had to be carried by tired men. The remainder of the 85th Brigade also came up under the cover of darkness, and "B" and "C" Companies of the 2nd Battalion moved into positions located to the rear of "A" and "D" Companies.

AMES, Private, ALBERT ROSS, TR/2089.

"D" Company, 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 28 May 1918. Aged 31.

Son of Albert Ross Ames and Blanch Ames of 29, Charlotte Street, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Folkestone Old Cemetery, Cheriton Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Grave Ref. C. "C." 1963.

Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial.

+ Albert has a MIC entry indicative of overseas active service, but unfortunately he is not recorded in/on SDGW. Compounding the oversight by the original SDGW compilers, is the fact that Albert was also missed off the regimental Nominal Roll of the Great War dead, in addition to not being included on the roll of honour in the book by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B. Over the years of researching the regiments war deaths, the transcriber of these brief commemorations on this roll of honour, has noticed that a staggering number of officers and other ranks that died in the Great War, whilst serving in the regiment sadly fall into all three of the aforementioned non-commemoration categories.

AMES, Private, ALFRED, G/23865, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Friday 12 October 1917. Aged 31.

Born Bethnal Green, Middlesex. Enlisted and resided Edmonton, Middlesex.

Husband of May Perkins (formerly Ames) of 29, Marsden Road, Lower Edmonton, London.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 17.

On the day that Alfred died, 55 Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, to which the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) belonged; during the 'First Battle of Passchendaele' assaulted Poelcapelle and Meunier House at 0520hours, with the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), the 7th (Service) Buffs and the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surreys in single file attack formation. The East Surrey Regiment spectacular advance of approximately 500 yards was eventually brought to a halt resultant of intensive fire from two machine-guns, which were ensconced in a well constructed position approximately 100 yards east of Gloster Farm, later during the evening the brigade was reassembled, following which the officers and other ranks were brought back to reform an assembly line, 100yards in front of the forming up tape. Sidney's battalion undertook another attack with "D" and "C" Companies, but "C" Company came under fire almost immediately from Gloster Farm and Point 37, but "D" Company managed to push on through the houses of Poelcapelle, but then came under fire from Meunier House and the Brewery, halting the attack with mounting casualties.

The soldiers of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent's attacking with "B" company on the right, made quite good progress until they came under fire from the Brewery, although they were reinforced by "D" Company, the enemy fire power that they were subjected to was so intense and prolonged all they could do at the expense of even more casualties was to establish a series of posts just beyond their original line, "C" Company for a while continued to make progress until a strong point situated at the northern extremity of Poelcapelle brought them to a stop, after which they dug in to try and consolidate their gains. At midday the Germans launched a counter attack which was primarily concentrated towards the west of the village; their initial attack which was something of a probing type to try and ascertain the British strength was beaten off, as were several more later attacks 53 Brigade were in support and also had the 8th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment in the line, a significant gap between the Suffolk Regiment and the soldiers of the 4th Division was spotted by the Germans which resulted in the weak spot being attacked twice, the first of which occurred at noon and later at 0530 hours, both of which were successfully repelled.

AMIES, Private, NATHANIEL GEORGE READ, G/703.

"C" Company, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Killed in action 20 August 1915. Aged 30.

Born Faversham, Kent 17 December 1884. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of the Reverend Nathaniel Jones Milner Stuart Amies, Vicar of The Brents, Faversham, Kent, and Frances Amies (née Hawkins) of 44, London Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Ref. III. C. 6.

Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, (F.R.C.I.) Guatemala Branch, Central America.

Commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial, also on a commemoration plaque located in the Holy Cross with St. Peter Church, Guildhall, St. Peter's Street, Canterbury, Kent, Nathaniel is also amongst the 420 on the "Roll of Service," located in the St. Mary of Charity, parish church, Church Street, Faversham, Kent, and is also commemorated on the town's civic tribute. In addition to the remembrances of Nathaniel in the county of Kent, he is also amongst the 58 who are commemorated in Bridge Street parish church, Llanelli, Dyfed, Wales. Nathaniel was educated at St. John's School, Leatherhead, Surrey, and Denstone College, Stafford, Staffordshire. He went to reside in Canada for fifteen months, prior to moving to Guatemala City, Guatemala, where he lived for lived for a period of seven and a half years whilst engaged in coffee planting. At the onset of the Great War, Nathaniel hastily returned back to England, and enlisted in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Canterbury, Kent on 1 September 1914. After training he went to France on 1 June 1915, but sadly like countless other soldiers of his generation, Nathaniel's life was cut short prematurely only a few weeks after arriving at the Western Front. Whilst returning from a Listening Post at Le Touquet on completion of a stint of duty at same, he was killed by a stray bullet. Following Nathaniel's death, a Captain serving in his company wrote the following, "We all feel greatly his loss, and he was with me from the start of things at Purfleet, and I got to know him well and valued his good qualities. He was a keen and earnest soldier, who never grumbled at whatever job he had to do (and many of them must have been distasteful for a man of his

education), and, moreover, did it well. He was a great favourite with the other men, and had a great influence for good with them, and they all feel his loss deeply. He had done particularly well in the platoon over here, and seemed to enjoy every minute of life in the trenches.”

AMOS, Private, EDWARD HARRY, G/2298, "A" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion.
Died 18 November 1916. Aged 36.

Born and resided Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of the late Edward Harry Benjamin and Mary Ann Amos.

Husband of Alice Rebecca Amos of 1, Bradstone Avenue, Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it. Edward is also commemorated on the on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial, and on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. John's, St. John's, Road, Folkestone, Kent.

On the 1881 census the Amos family and household was residing at Foord Road, Folkestone, Kent, with Edward Amos (senior) who was a Smith as the Head of the house.

EDWARD B. AMOS.	Aged 30.	Born At Sea
MARY AMOS.	Aged 32.	Born Upchurch, Kent.
LILLIAN M. AMOS.	Aged 4.	Born Folkestone, Kent.
EDWARD H. B. AMOS.	Aged 11 months.	Born Folkestone, Kent.
JOSHUA WANSTALL.	Aged 72.	Born Deal, Kent.
(Boarder). Retired Coast Guard		
GEORGE J. JONES.	Aged 25.	Born Folkestone, Kent.
Retired Mineral Water Manufacturer.		
WILLIAM G. BRITTIAN.	Aged 24.	Born Essex.

(Boarder). Corn Factor & Coal Merchant.

Although the day on which Edward lost his life is recorded as the last day of 'The Battle of the Somme 1916,' as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig, in the case of the 7th Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, by days end over 60 had been killed most falling during an attack on a enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion's of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly,

although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.

AMOS, Private, FREDERICK HAROLD, G/12979, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 November 1916.

Born and enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Herne Bay, Kent.

Brother of Miss Beatrice Amos of 2, Laundry Cottages, Richmond Street, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon it. Frederick is also commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

Although the day on which Frederick lost his life is recorded as the last day of 'The Battle of the Somme 1916,' as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig, in the case of the 7th Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, by days end over 60 had been killed most falling during an attack on a enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion's of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officer and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.



AMOS, Private, PERCY JOHN, G/11459, 2nd Battalion.

Died 11 October 1918.

Born Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Exohi, Greece. Grave Ref. 293.

Percy is recorded in/on SDGW as having died as opposed to killed in action or wounded. In view of the combination of his date of death and place of burial, and although purely supposition by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, it would seem feasible that Percy had died of Influenza during the worldwide pandemic of the illness which prevailed at the time. The Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery was begun in March 1916, but it remained a very small one until September 1917, when the 60th, 65th and 66th General Hospitals came to the neighbourhood. In June, July and September 1918, other hospitals were brought to the high and healthy country beside the Salonika-Hortakoi road. In September 1918, the influenza epidemic began which raged for three months and filled three-quarters of the cemetery. The above mentioned Influenza pandemic claimed an estimated 50 million lives around the world, over a period of about eighteen months.

AMOS, Lance Corporal, PERCY WILLIAM, G/2566, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died of wounds 25 November 1916. Aged 23.

Born Burntdown House, Bonnington, Ashford, Kent 4 August 1893. Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided 'The Ash Tree,' White Hill, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent.

Son of Stephen and Sarah Ann Amos (née Newland) of The Ash Tree, White Hill, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent.

Buried SS Gregory and Martin Churchyard, Wye, Ashford, Kent.

Grave Ref: South of west end of Church, near main gate, on left hand side of the path when approaching the church.

Commemorated on the Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

Percy died of wounds whilst a patient at St. Luke's, Horton War Hospital, Little Horton, Bradford, Yorkshire. He was interred in Wye churchyard, due to the fact that no burials were taking place in nearby Boughton Aluph churchyard, at the time of his family bringing him home for burial. As opposed to having a IWGC/CWGC regulation headstone, Percy has a private headstone and grave kerbing, for which his family paid £20 to Russell's a local Monumental Masons to construct and place in the churchyard. At the time of his wounding, one of Percy's brothers' who was also serving in the same regiment was only a mile away. Percy's death certificate shows that his death was attributed to (1) Shotgun wound to thigh, (2) Secondary Hemorrhage (Gangrene).

AMOS, Second Lieutenant, WILLIAM HOPE, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 14 October 1916. Aged 19.

Son of Thomas and Jane Elizabeth Amos of The Priory, Hythe, Kent.

Buried A.I.F. Burial Ground, Flers, Somme, France. Grave Ref. I. C. 24.

Commemorated on the Hythe, Kent civic war memorial. William was a former pupil of the Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone, Kent where he is also commemorated on the school Great War memorial plaque, he is also commemorated on an impressive private memorial in the parish church of St. Leonard's, Hythe, Kent, upon which is inscribed the following:-

Sacred to the memory of WILLIAM HOPE AMOS, 2nd Lieutenant
7th Battalion, The Buffs

Killed in Action at Gueudecourt, France, October 14th 1916, Aged 19.

Son of the late Thomas Amos, Churchwarden of this parish from 1901 to 1908.

“His Life For His Country, His Soul For God.”

Although four other ranks deaths occurred on 14 October 1916, SDGW records two of them as having ‘Died’ as opposed to having been killed in action or died of wounds, the other soldier is shown as having died of wounds. If the aforementioned SDGW entries are in fact accurate (not all are), it would appear that William was particularly unfortunate to have been killed in action on the day that he lost his life, as thus far no other deaths in the 7th (Service) Battalion have been accessed during the researching for these brief transcriptions. Compounding the tragedy of his death is the fact that William had survived the actions fought by his battalion at the infamous Schwaben Redoubt, Thiepval, for virtually the whole of the first week of October 1916.

AMOS, Private, WILLIAM JAMES, 26607, "D" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 4 May 1918. Aged 38.

Enlisted Hounslow, Middlesex. Resided Twickenham, Middlesex.

Son of Henry and Rebecca S. Amos.

Husband of Cecilie Amos of 55, Amyand Park Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Buried Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref. VI. H. 17.

It appears that William's was the sole death in his battalion on 4 May 1918. Although SDGW does not record William's place of birth, it would seem likely that he was probably a native of Tring, Hertfordshire, as it was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations that at the time of the 1881 census, a family with the surname Amos, matching the information as extracted from William's CWGC commemoration details, resided at Cow Lane Lodge, Pendly House, Tring, Hertfordshire. Henry Amos who was a Gardener was the Head of the house.

HENRY AMOS. Aged 33. Born Boddington, Northamptonshire.

REBECCA AMOS. Aged 35. Born Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

MARY AMOS. Aged 10. Born Tring, Hertfordshire.

SARAH AMOS. Aged 8. Born Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire.

HENRY AMOS. Aged 4. Born Tring, Hertfordshire.

WILLIAM AMOS. Aged 1. Born Tring, Hertfordshire.

AMPS, Private, CHARLES GEORGE, G/18837, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 August 1917.

Born Huntingdon, Huntingdonshire. Enlisted Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Resided Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

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

Grave Ref. P. II. D. 3B.

SDGW records Charles as having died of wounds, which would match his burial location. During the Great War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city. Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross, and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. Unfortunately it has not been possible at the time of adding the above brief transcription to ascertain when, where or how Charles was mortally wounded.

ANDERSON, Lieutenant Colonel, DONALD KNOX, M.C.

The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), attached to the Head Quarters Staff of the 61st Division.

Died 3 December 1917.

Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 3, and on a Great War memorial plaque located in St. Jude's Church, South Kensington, London. Also commemorated on a private memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary of Charity, Faversham, Kent, which is inscribed:-

IN MEMORY OF/ DONALD KNOX ANDERSON MC CAPT THE BUFFS/
LIEUTENANT COLONEL MACHINE GUN CORPS/ 2ND SON OF GEORGE KNOX
ANDERSON JP DL/ OF BRIDGE HILL HOUSE NEAR CANTERBURY/ AND
GRANDSON OF JOHN ANDREW ANDERSON JP/ OF HILLSIDE HOUSE
FAVERSHAM/ KILLED IN ACTION ON THE WESTERN FRONT NEAR
CAMBRAI/ WHILST SERVING WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE/
ON DECEMBER 3RD 1917.

Donald's brother also fell in the Great War, he being:-

ANDERSON, Lieutenant, COLIN KNOX.

3rd Battalion, attached to 'A' Company, 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 23 August 1914. Aged 26.

Son of George Knox Anderson, D.L., J.P., and Mrs Anderson, of Bridge Hill House, Canterbury, Kent. Educated at Malvern College.

Buried Hautrage Military Cemetery, Saint-Ghislain, Hainaut, Belgium.

Grave Ref. I. D. 17.

Colin is also commemorated on a private memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Mary of Charity, Faversham, Kent, which is inscribed:-

IN MEMORY OF/ COLIN KNOX ANDERSON (QUEENS OWN)/ ROYAL WEST
KENT REGIMENT/ SON OF GEORGE KNOX ANDERSON JP DL/ OF BRIDGE

HILL HOUSE NEAR CANTERBURY/ AND GRANDSON OF JOHN ANDREW
ANDERSON JP/ OF HILLSIDE HOUSE FAVERSHAM/ KILLED IN ACTION
WHILE SERVING WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY/ FORCE NEAR MONS
23RD AUGUST 1914.

ANDERSON, Private, HENRY, G/5770, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 26 September 1915.

Born, enlisted and resided Greenwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

The 8th Battalion commanded by Colonel Frederick Charles Romer C.B., C.M.G. Sailed from Folkestone, Kent and arrived in Boulogne, France on 1 September 1915 where it then spent two days, after which a move was made to billets at the little village of Maninghem near Etaples, Pas de Calais, to undertake divisional training. Henry's battalion remained at Maninghem until 21 September 1915, when a march was undertaken by the battalion to assemble at the concentration area in preparation for the 'Battle of Loos,' the battalion marched to Bethune arriving early in the morning on 25 September, at 1100 hours the battalion formed up for Colonel Romer to address the officers and other ranks, short but to the point he said, "I am not going to make a speech to you, but only ask you to remember that you are THE BUFFS." Following their Colonels 'speech' the battalion then made another move nearer to the battle heading for Vermelles to take part in an attack which was planned for later that night. Marching over difficult terrain their division reached positions in the area of Bois Hugo, Chalk Pit Wood, Chalet Wood and Hill 70 Redoubt, which were advanced positions that faced the German's second line. A proposed attack planned for that night was eventually postponed, and the battalion received fresh orders which stated that they were to take part in an attack the following morning. Just twenty four days after landing in France, and significantly with most of the officers and other ranks in the battalion never having been in action before, at 1030 hours on the following morning, orders were received by the 24th Division, (which included the 8th Battalion) for an attack to begin at 1100 hours, with the battalion detailed to attack the village of Hulluch. Set out below is the 8th Battalion War Diary entry for part of the 26 September 1915. "At 10.30 a.m. verbal orders arrived to prepare for an attack at 11 o'clock a.m. Almost at once the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of our trenches. At 11 a.m. an attack across open country commenced, the objective being a German position about a mile away. Artillery formation was adopted on leaving the trenches, but long distance rifle fire caused us to extend our lines almost immediately. The Buffs were supporting the West Kents. The advance was carried forward rapidly and by 11.30 a.m. the leading lines of the Buffs had arrived within 25 yards of the German barbed wire. No gaps could be observed in the wire entanglements. During the advance a heavy fire from machine guns on both flanks was encountered. At 1155 a.m. an order came down the line from the right to withdraw. The enemy's fire especially from our left flank became heavier and very considerable losses occurred. The Buffs were relieved during the night 26/27th 1915. Rested in a field close by Saily La Bourse." Because of the way that war diary entries are written, with their original intention not being for the benefit of amateur historians and the like, the above omits to adequately emphasize that when the battalion attacked at Hulluch, they had to cross a stretch of 'No Mans Land' approximately a mile wide, in tandem with the rest of the 72nd Brigade the battalion with

mounting casualties eventually managed to reach their designated objective, despite being constantly heavily enfiladed by well placed enemy machine guns, only to then find that the enemy wire was still mainly intact in front of it. The Division to the battalion's right was subsequently forced to withdraw, which resulted in the right flank being exposed to even more enemy attention primarily in the form of machine gun fire and Germans artillery shellfire, incredibly the 8th Battalion withstood the enemies superior firepower for a full four hours before inevitably being forced to withdraw, during which time more casualties were inflicted on The Buffs, as can be seen from the war diary entry were relieved that night and initially fell back to Noeux les Mines where they bivouacked in pouring rain. The casualties to the battalion resulting from its first significant engagement of the Great War were truly staggering, as they amounted to at least 24 officers and 610 other ranks killed, wounded or missing, of that number 2 officers and 158 other ranks died on the day of the engagement which was fought by the battalion on 26 September 1915. Inevitably a significant number later succumbed to their wounds, resultant of the action fought at Hulluch. Amongst the officers the battalion only had one young officer Second Lieutenant J. Vaughan that was not a casualty, subsequently he was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry when leading the other ranks remnants of the battalion from the battle.

ANDERSON, Lance Corporal, OSCAR H, G/1498, 8th (Service) Battalion.
Died 6 September 1916.

Born Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Enlisted London. Resided Clapham Park, Surrey.
Buried Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme, France.
Grave Ref. IV. A. 24.

SDGW records Oscar as having died of wounds, which would match his burial location. The 36th Casualty Clearing Station was at Heilly from April 1916. It was joined in May by the 38th, and in July by the 2/2nd London, but these hospitals had all moved on by early June 1917. The cemetery was begun in May 1916 and was used by the three medical units until April 1917. From March to May 1918, it was used by Australian units and in the early autumn for further hospital burials when the 20th Casualty Clearing Station was there briefly in August and September 1918. The last burial at the cemetery was made in May 1919. Unfortunately it has not been possible at the time of compiling the above brief transcription to ascertain when, where or how Oscar was mortally wounded.

ANDERSON, Private, PERCY OSWALD ROBERT, G/20850.

"B" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 3 May 1917. Aged 35.

Born Pimlico, Middlesex. Enlisted Clapham, Surrey. Resided Battersea, Surrey.

Son of Emily Anderson of 3, Wroughton Road, Battersea, London, and the late David Anderson.

Husband of Louisa Alice Anderson of 78, Hillier Road, Battersea, London.

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

With some justification it is probably fair to say that the various commentators remarks about the action fought on the 2/3 May 1917 at the village of Chérisy, to the south east of Arras, France, by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and by the

other battalions taking part along the lines of it being a failure are well grounded. It should be hastily pointed out however, that non of those (irrespective of country etcetera) who have passed judgment on same, have ever leveled any criticisms or disparaging remarks about those who took part in the action, which was undertaken as part of the overall battles of the Scarpe. On the night of 2/3 May 1917, Percy's battalion was opposite the village of Chérisy, which is situated only a short distance to the south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). Waiting in readiness for the attack were the officers and other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies who had been selected to be the assaulting companies, with 'C' as the supporting Company, and 'D' Company being held in reserve, waiting in shell holes to the rear of the support trench. At 0345 hours the first two companies set off towards the battalions prime objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917, it being a location named Keeling Copse. Fortunately all the battalion were clear of the front trench prior to it, and other locations being bombarded by German artillery. Blame for the confusion which had prevailed during the attack has been ascertained to numerous causes and people, but an overriding factor oft referred to was the fact that during the early stages of the days events, it had been pitch black. As the direct result of the lack of light, all the sections, platoons and even companies seen got mixed up and muddled. At one point virtually the whole of the 12th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, had crossed in front of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), but with a measure of commendable skill that error was corrected. With the coming of dawn the village of Chérisy was not only reached but actually passed, and as it was entered by the battalion touch was made with the same Middlesex battalion which had 'strayed' across its front earlier in the attack. Upon reaching the river Sensée beyond Chérisy, it was noted that the adjacent battalions had in fact lost touch with each other again. As the result of the set-back, Captain Black of 'A' Company wisely halted the battalion, and set about forming a defensive flank along the road which runs to the south east of Chérisy. Before the reorganization could be accomplished, the troops were heavily attacked, which had the additional result of the message sent back by Captain Black failing to get back. By 0900 hours Captain Black's Company on the right flank of the battalion was unable to move. Resulting from the situation which 'A' Company was in, had the effect of those on the opposite flank losing what advantages it had made, with both 'B' and 'C' Companies having by that time also fought their way to the Sensée. Shortly afterwards, fresh orders were received by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), to advance in unison with the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to the 'Red Line,' and their fellow 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, members of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), to consolidate the 'Blue Line.' At approximately 1100 hours unclear reports filtered through that a general retirement was taking place, at a time when stretcher bearers and the like were engaged on rescue undertakings. An unfortunate result of the confusion generated by the 'retirement' was that those engaged on the rescues, those retiring and the enemy soldiers were to all intents and purposes intermingled, which had the knock on effect of making it virtually impossible to open fire. After the 'retirement' was stopped the attack, albeit with less momentum got under way again, and as late as 1915 hours an attempt was made to reoccupy 'Cable Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), supported by Percy's battalion, but it was to no avail as the assaulting battalion was driven back by

intense German machine gun and rifle fire. By the end of the day on 3 May 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was back in the original front line trenches. As the result of the failed attack at Ch erisy, the battalion had two officers killed, six wounded and four missing, and the casualties to the other ranks were one hundred and twenty killed, one hundred and sixty nine wounded, and approximately one hundred missing.



ANDERSON, Private, WALTER JAMES, G/11884, 1st Battalion.

Died 13 April 1917. Aged 32.

Born Marylebone, Middlesex. Enlisted and resided Tooting, Middlesex.

Husband of Lilly Ethel Anderson of rear of 1 R 8, Quarry Street, East Fremantle, Western Australia.

Buried Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, Pas de Calais. Grave Ref. I. Q. 29.

At a time when there was a noticeable increase in enemy activity in the area, on 7 April 1917 the 1st Battalion moved into front line trenches at the village of Loos-en-Gohelle. Two days after the battalion had occupied the trenches, the battalion that was located on its left, had attempted a raid which resulted in a fierce German artillery bombardment of all the trenches and back areas, and which resulted in the wounding of Lieutenant Brian R. Harman and six other ranks serving in the battalion. Casualties in the battalion continued albeit spasmodically for several days, with the enemy who were opposite the 1st Battalion being observed as being in a very alert state, and with a lot of movement taking place at several of their positions between 6 and 12 April, particularly at nighttime. On 12 April five other ranks were wounded, and on two separate occasions hostile patrols attempted to enter the front line held by "B" Company, and the increased activity of hostile snipers and machine guns showed that the enemy were very alert. During the night of 12/13 April, numerous small explosions and fires were observed in the enemy lines between The Double Crassier and Loos Crassier, which continued throughout the morning of the 13 April. It was thought that what had been observed at the enemy positions had pointed to a possible withdrawal on the part of the enemy, and other indications were not lacking. By this time the 24th Division to the south of the Double Crassier had made good progress, and at 1600 hours the 2nd Battalion, York & Lancaster Regiment, located on the right of Walter's battalion advanced, and found the enemy front line system unoccupied. "B" Company at once conformed with the advance and occupied the enemy front line south of the Loos Crassier. They also pushed out patrols who found

that the support line was also unoccupied. In conjunction with the 2nd Battalion, York & Lancaster Regiment, "B" Company continued to advance during the evening, during which time the enemy rear guard, which was mainly in the form of machine guns was offering a stubborn resistance. In the face of the German rear guard action the British advance continued, and during the night a line was established running south from Harts Craters, and this line was held under heavy enemy artillery fire during the day of 14 April.

ANDERSON, Private, WILLIAM, T/1753, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 13 March 1915. Aged 20.

Born St. Eanswythes, Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Folkestone, Kent.

Son of John and Sarah Anderson of 1, Sidney Street, Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, India. Face 3, and on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial, William is also commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located at the George Spurgeon Community, Primary School, Sidney Street, Folkestone, Kent.

Williams SDGW entry records him as 'Died' as opposed to killed in action or died of wounds. In/on SDGW, William is recorded as having been a member of the regiments 4th Battalion. Although his death certificate has not been sighted, it would seem likely that William died of some form of disease.

ANDERSON, Lance Corporal, WILLIAM JAMES, L/9826.

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

Killed in action 13 August 1918. Aged 24.

Born and resided Old Brompton, Chatham, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Ann Jane Anderson of 3, Westcourt Cottages, Westcourt Street, Old Brompton, Chatham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

A Yeomanry veteran of the Palestine campaign, William was amongst the officers and other ranks that had joined "D" Company after 1 March 1917. It had become apparent to the allies as they advanced, that the German army was still in strength as it retreated, but was wavering all along the line. Of relevance regarding the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion in mid August 1918, was the events taking place around Calonne-sur-la-Lys near the Lys Canal. On the night of 12 August 1918, commencing at 2130 hours an attempt to try and ascertain the enemies strength, was carried out by William's battalion in total darkness, over difficult terrain that was a mass of shell-holes. Although the actual attempted advance failed, it did allow valuable information to be gleaned appertaining to the enemy strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately the battalion's opposition strengths far outweighed its weaknesses, with an unexpected plethora of machine guns still in evidence, which were manned by a far greater number of enemy soldiers than had been envisaged. Prior to breaking off the engagement, the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion suffered at least eight other ranks deaths on the night of 12/13 August 1918, with several woundings and seven men reported as missing.

ANDREWS, Private, ARTHUR JAMES, G/15535, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 3 May 1917. Aged 20.

Born and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Emma Andrews of 12, Montefiore Cottages, Hereson Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and the late John Andrews.

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

Formerly Private, 2433, 2/1st, Kent Cyclists Battalion.

With some justification it is probably fair to say that the various commentators remarks about the action fought on the 2/3 May 1917 at the village of Chérisy, to the south east of Arras, France, by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and by the other battalions taking part along the lines of it being a failure are well grounded. It should be hastily pointed out however, that non of those (irrespective of country etcetera) who have passed judgment on same, have ever leveled any criticisms or disparaging remarks about those who took part in the action, which was undertaken as part of the overall battles of the Scarpe. On the night of 2/3 May 1917, Arthur's battalion was opposite the village of Chérisy, which is situated only a short distance to the south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). Waiting in readiness for the attack were the officers and other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies who had been selected to be the assaulting companies, with 'C' as the supporting Company, and 'D' Company being held in reserve, waiting in shell holes to the rear of the support trench. At 0345 hours the first two companies set off towards the battalions prime objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917, it being a location named Keeling Copse. Fortunately all the battalion were clear of the front trench prior to it, and other locations being bombarded by German artillery. Blame for the confusion which had prevailed during the attack has been ascertained to numerous causes and people, but an overriding factor oft referred to was the fact that during the early stages of the days events, it had been pitch black. As the direct result of the lack of light, all the sections, platoons and even companies seen got mixed up and muddled. At one point virtually the whole of the 12th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, had crossed in front of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), but with a measure of commendable skill that error was corrected. With the coming of dawn the village of Chérisy was not only reached but actually passed, and as it was entered by the battalion touch was made with the same Middlesex battalion which had 'strayed' across its front earlier in the attack. Upon reaching the river Sensée beyond Chérisy, it was noted that the adjacent battalions had in fact lost touch with each other again. As the result of the set-back, Captain Black of 'A' Company wisely halted the battalion, and set about forming a defensive flank along the road which runs to the south east of Chérisy. Before the reorganization could be accomplished, the troops were heavily attacked, which had the additional result of the message sent back by Captain Black failing to get back. By 0900 hours Captain Black's Company on the right flank of the battalion was unable to move. Resulting from the situation which 'A' Company was in, had the effect of those on the opposite flank losing what advantages it had made, with both 'B' and 'C' Companies having by that time also fought their way to the Sensée. Shortly afterwards, fresh orders were received by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), to advance in unison with the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to the 'Red Line,' and their fellow 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, members of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own

(Royal West Kent Regiment), to consolidate the 'Blue Line.' At approximately 1100 hours unclear reports filtered through that a general retirement was taking place, at a time when stretcher bearers and the like were engaged on rescue undertakings. An unfortunate result of the confusion generated by the 'retirement' was that those engaged on the rescues, those retiring and the enemy soldiers were to all intents and purposes intermingled, which had the knock on effect of making it virtually impossible to open fire. After the 'retirement' was stopped the attack, albeit with less momentum got under way again, and as late as 1915 hours an attempt was made to reoccupy 'Cable Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), supported by Arthur's battalion, but it was to no avail as the assaulting battalion was driven back by intense German machine gun and rifle fire. By the end of the day on 3 May 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was back in the original front line trenches. As the result of the failed attack at Chérisy, the battalion had two officers killed, six wounded and four missing, and the casualties to the other ranks were one hundred and twenty killed, one hundred and sixty nine wounded, and approximately one hundred missing.

ANDREWS, Private, CHARLIE, G/5402, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 10 November 1918. Aged 39.

Born and resided Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of John Andrews of Red Cottages, Thorne, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and the late Sarah Andrews.

Husband of Clara Andrews of Sheriffs Court Lane, Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3.

Charlie's SDGW entry records him as 'Died' as opposed to killed in action or died of wounds, and as his death certificate or any other supporting documentation has not been sighted, unfortunately it has not been possible at this time to add any additional information appertaining to Charlie's death. At the time of the 1881 census the Andrews family and household resided at No 1 Cottages Allan Grange, Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. John Andrews, who was Charlie's father, and employed as an Agricultural Labourer was the Head of the house:-

JOHN ANDREWS.	Aged 35.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
SARAH ANDREWS.	Aged 38.	Born Lydden Margate, Kent.
HARRIET ANDREWS.	Aged 13.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
GEORGE ANDREWS.	Aged 11.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
ANNIE ANDREWS.	Aged 9.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
ELIZA ANDREWS.	Aged 7.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
LOUIS ANDREWS.	Aged 5.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
HARRY ANDREWS.	Aged 3.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
CHARLEY ANDREWS.	Aged 1.	Born Minster, Thanet, Kent.
JAMES HOLNESS.	Aged 18.	Born Whitstable, Kent. (Boarder).
WILLIAM DENNETT.	Aged 16.	Born Monkton, Kent. (Boarder).

Both of the above Boarders were employed as Agricultural Labourers.

ANDREWS, Second Lieutenant, EDWARD NORMAN, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 23 August 1918. Aged 19.

Born Hampstead, London, NW, 21 November 1898.

Son of Doctor, Edward Collingwood Andrews and Elizabeth Jane Andrews (née Tucker) of 16, Heath Drive, Hampstead, London, NW.

Buried Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave Ref. VI. A. 26.

Edward was initially educated at Heath Mount, Hampstead, London, NW, and on completion of his time there went to Oundle School, Northamptonshire, where he became a School Prefect, and the Captain of boating. Upon leaving the Public School at Oundle, Edward went to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Surrey, from where on the successful completion of his studies he was Gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in December 1917, initially being posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, at Dover, Kent. Doubtless Edward received more 'hands on' training and learned more about his chosen regiment whilst at Dover. His service on the Western Front commenced in July 1918, but sadly like so many of his contemporaries the young subaltern had his life cut short, when he was mortally wounded whilst leading his platoon in action at Albert on the Somme, France on 22 August 1918. Edward succumbed to his wounds whilst a patient at a Casualty Clearing Station at Daours. Following his death a brother officer of Edward's wrote the following letter of condolence to his grieving family, "He led his platoon with complete disregard of danger, encouraging his men until wounded. His devotion to duty and bravery were an inspiration to his platoon."

ANDREWS, Private, GEORGE THOMAS, G/6670, 1st Battalion.

Died 15 September 1916.

Born St. Matthew's, Walsall, Staffordshire. Enlisted Walsall, Staffordshire. Resided Pleck, Walsall, Staffordshire.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it.

The British objective for 15 September 1916 was a line stretching between the Somme villages of Gueudecourt, Flers, Lesboeufs, and Morval, with the XIV Corps (Guards and 6th Division) detailed to capture the two latter locations. George's battalion was engaged in the major action at Morval, with the battalion moving forward from the frontline trenches and attacked a heavily fortified enemy redoubt known as the Quadrilateral which was located on the edge of Bouteaux Wood. It was also the first occasion that tanks were employed, but as far as the 6th Division was concerned their use was a failure, for of the three tanks that were allotted to the division, two broke down before starting, and the third, moving off in accordance with orders long before the infantry, had its periscope shot off, its peep-holes blinded, after being literally riddled by armour piercing bullets, and had to come back without achieving anything. To facilitate the movement of the tanks a gap of approximately 200 yards had been left in the artillery creeping barrage. Unfortunately the gap coincided with the strongest point of the Quadrilateral. Adding to the problems faced by the assaulting infantry was that the artillery barrage had passed over the German trenches by the time the infantry advanced. The 1st Battalion was tasked with supporting both the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedford Regiment, that had one company bombing up the trench from Leuze Wood, and the remainder over the open to the north against the south-west face, and also the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster

Regiment. The leading formation started its advance to attack up the muddy slippery slopes at 0620 hours without any artillery support except for the already referred to bombardment, but both of the leading battalions were soon checked by heavy enemy machine gun fire. The 1st Battalion began its advance fifteen minutes after the two leading battalions, but they also quickly became inflamed by enemy machine gun fire, with most being pinned down in shell holes, and suffered substantial casualties. 6 officers and 53 other ranks were killed and an additional 190 men were wounded, their casualties being the highest of those which took part in the attack. Under the cover of darkness during the night the battalion withdrew to a trench running south east to Guillemont.

ANDREWS, Private, HENRY, G/15536, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 3 May 1917. Aged 22.

Born Eastbourne, Sussex. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Gravesend, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Andrews of 'Oakdene,' Riverhall Hill, Frant, Sussex.

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

Formerly Private, 2272, 2/1st, Kent Cyclists Battalion.

Arthur and Henry Andrews may have been related (cousins?) as they had consecutive army numbers, both having enlisting in the army at Tonbridge, Kent, in addition to which both were former members of the 2/1st, Kent Cyclist Battalion, also sadly both lost their lives on the same day, all possibly relevant facts or just simply tragic coincidences? With some justification it is probably fair to say that the various commentators remarks about the action fought on the 2/3 May 1917 at the village of Chérisy, to the south east of Arras, France, by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and by the other battalions taking part along the lines of it being a failure are well grounded. It should be hastily pointed out however, that non of those (irrespective of country etcetera) who have passed judgment on same, have ever leveled any criticisms or disparaging remarks about those who took part in the action, which was undertaken as part of the overall battles of the Scarpe. On the night of 2/3 May 1917, Henry's battalion was opposite the village of Chérisy, which is situated only a short distance to the south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). Waiting in readiness for the attack were the officers and other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies who had been selected to be the assaulting companies, with 'C' as the supporting Company, and 'D' Company being held in reserve, waiting in shell holes to the rear of the support trench. At 0345 hours the first two companies set off towards the battalions prime objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917, it being a location named Keeling Copse. Fortunately all the battalion were clear of the front trench prior to it, and other locations being bombarded by German artillery. Blame for the confusion which had prevailed during the attack has been ascertained to numerous causes and people, but an overriding factor oft referred to was the fact that during the early stages of the days events, it had been pitch black. As the direct result of the lack of light, all the sections, platoons and even companies seen got mixed up and muddled. At one point virtually the whole of the 12th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, had crossed in front of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), but with a measure of commendable skill that error was corrected. With the coming of dawn the village of Chérisy was not only reached but actually passed, and as it was entered by the battalion touch was made with the same Middlesex battalion which had 'strayed' across its front earlier in the attack. Upon reaching the river Sensée beyond Chérisy, it

was noted that the adjacent battalions had in fact lost touch with each other again. As the result of the set-back, Captain Black of 'A' Company wisely halted the battalion, and set about forming a defensive flank along the road which runs to the south east of Chérisy. Before the reorganization could be accomplished, the troops were heavily attacked, which had the additional result of the message sent back by Captain Black failing to get back. By 0900 hours Captain Black's Company on the right flank of the battalion was unable to move. Resulting from the situation which 'A' Company was in, had the effect of those on the opposite flank losing what advantages it had made, with both 'B' and 'C' Companies having by that time also fought their way to the Sensée. Shortly afterwards, fresh orders were received by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), to advance in unison with the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to the 'Red Line,' and their fellow 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, members of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), to consolidate the 'Blue Line.' At approximately 1100 hours unclear reports filtered through that a general retirement was taking place, at a time when stretcher bearers and the like were engaged on rescue undertakings. An unfortunate result of the confusion generated by the 'retirement' was that those engaged on the rescues, those retiring and the enemy soldiers were to all intents and purposes intermingled, which had the knock on effect of making it virtually impossible to open fire. After the 'retirement' was stopped the attack, albeit with less momentum got under way again, and as late as 1915 hours an attempt was made to reoccupy 'Cable Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), supported by Henry's battalion, but it was to no avail as the assaulting battalion was driven back by intense German machine gun and rifle fire. By the end of the day on 3 May 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was back in the original front line trenches. As the result of the failed attack at Chérisy, the battalion had two officers killed, six wounded and four missing, and the casualties to the other ranks were one hundred and twenty killed, one hundred and sixty nine wounded, and approximately one hundred missing.

ANDREWS, Private, HERBERT EDWARD MARTIN, G/408, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died Wednesday 13 October 1915. Aged 23.

Born and enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Blackheath, Kent.

Son of Herbert and N. E. Andrews of 8, Couthurst Road, Blackheath, London.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the

Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included Herbert's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the

majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by Herbert's battalion on 13 October 1915 which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

ANDREWS, Private, HORACE, L/9350, 1st Battalion.

Died 18 October 1914. Aged 22.

Born Tyler Hill, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Reculver, Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of John and Evrel Andrews of Hillborough Farm, Reculver, Herne Bay, Kent.

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

Horace was amongst the 24 other ranks serving in the 1st Battalion who died on 18 October 1914. Following the fall of the city of Antwerp on 9 October 1914, it allowed for the release of a vast amount of German troops, and depending on what publication is read, the actual numbers of soldiers that then became available for duty elsewhere vary wildly. Despite generally accepted as containing numerous errors, the book by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B., detailing the regiments' contribution during the Great War, put the above number as 90,000, Colonel Moody also make mention that in addition to those enemy soldiers, four German Army Corps had also been brought from the Eastern Front to fight on the Western Front. With the mass of additional manpower available to the German High Command, the British and French troops the enemy from post the fall of Antwerp were vastly outnumbered. On 12 October 1914 the 1st Battalion was relieved in their trenches on the Aisne by French troops, and marched to the little village of Bazoches-sur-Vesles along with the 16th Brigade of the 6th Division to which the battalion belonged, and entrained from Bazoches-sur-Vesles to Cassel where they arrived the following day. The following is an extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "The 16th Infantry Brigade now rejoined the Division from the Aisne, and on the 18th October a reconnaissance in force was ordered, which was brilliantly carried out. The Buffs and Y. and L. on the right captured Radinghem without much opposition, and advanced across a small plateau, 300 yards in width, towards the woods in which stands the Château de Flandres. They here came under a heavy cross-fire of machine-guns and shrapnel, and were counter-attacked and driven back. The situation, however, was saved by Major Bayley's company of the Y. and L., which had worked round on the left and threatened the flank of the counter-attack, which thereon withdrew. The Y. and L. suffered considerable casualties in this little action--Major Robertson being killed. Meanwhile the 18th Infantry Brigade had captured Ennetières and the south end of Capinghem, while the 17th Infantry Brigade reached Prêmesques, but was unable to take Pérenchies. The 4th Division had not been able to cross the Lys north of Armentières, which necessitated the 17th Infantry Brigade throwing back its flank to l'Épinette. On the 19th October the Division entrenched on the line it had won. To the right were French cavalry and cyclists, covering the gap between the right of the III Corps and the left of the I Corps near Aubers. The advance from Hazebrouck to the ridge had occupied six days, and cost the Division some 750 casualties. On the morning of the 20th October the Germans attacked

very heavily on the whole front. Fighting on a very extended front (five miles) and with very little in hand, the Division was soon in difficulties, particularly on the exposed left flank, where the Leinsters had their three left companies quickly driven in, and the situation at midday was critical. One company with the machine-guns was able to hold on until the afternoon at Mont de Prêmesques, and to withdraw under cover of darkness, having inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. Meanwhile units of other brigades were putting up a gallant fight against great odds, each unit generally with one or both flanks unsupported. At Ennetières, which formed rather a salient, the Sherwood Foresters held out all day, but were attacked at dusk by three battalions and practically annihilated or captured, only the CO., Adjutant, Q.M. and 250 other ranks remaining the next day. The Buffs, after a splendid fight, were driven out of Radinghem, and by night the Division was practically back on the line which it was to hold for the next few months, and on which the German offensive of 1918 still found the British. Continuous unsuccessful attempts to break through occurred till 31st October, when trench warfare set in. Notable among these was the attack on the K.S.L.I. and Y. and L. on the 23rd October, when 300 enemy dead were left in front of our trenches; on the 18th Infantry Brigade on the night of the 27/28th October, when the enemy captured the line, but was driven out by a counter-attack, in which the East Yorks specially distinguished themselves; and on the night of the 29/30th October, when the 19th Infantry Brigade lost some trenches, but counter-attacked successfully, and counted 200 German dead. The incident of Cpl. Forward, 1st The Buffs, is typical of the fierce fighting. On 30th October, when the O.C. machine-guns of The Buffs and all the team had been killed or wounded, this gallant N.C.O. continued to fire his gun until eventually wounded in five places, when he crawled back to report the situation. He was rewarded with the D.C.M. During the whole period, 20th to 30th October, the guns were woefully short of ammunition, and consequently a greater strain was thrown on the infantry.”

ANDREWS, Private, JOSEPH, G/21166, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Friday 12 October 1917. Aged 35.

Born Highgate, Middlesex. Enlisted Wood Green, Middlesex. Resided Hornsey, Middlesex.

Son of Joseph and Eliza Andrews.

Husband of Alice Grace Andrews of Church Walk, Leigh-on-Mendip, Bath, Somerset.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 17.

On the day that Joseph died, 55 Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, to which the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) belonged; during the ‘First Battle of Passchendaele’ assaulted Poelcapelle and Meunier House at 0520hours, with the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), the 7th (Service) Buffs and the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surreys in single file attack formation. The East Surrey Regiment spectacular advance of approximately 500 yards was eventually brought to a halt resultant of intensive fire from two machine-guns, which were ensconced in a well constructed position approximately 100 yards east of Gloster Farm, later during the evening the brigade was reassembled, following which the officers and other ranks were brought back to reform an assembly line, 100yards in front of the forming up tape. Sidney’s battalion undertook another attack with “D” and “C” Companies, but “C”

Company came under fire almost immediately from Gloster Farm and Point 37, but "D" Company managed to push on through the houses of Poelcapelle, but then came under fire from Meunier House and the Brewery, halting the attack with mounting casualties. The soldiers of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent's attacking with "B" company on the right, made quite good progress until they came under fire from the Brewery, although they were reinforced by "D" Company, the enemy fire power that they were subjected to was so intense and prolonged all they could do at the expense of even more casualties was to establish a series of posts just beyond their original line, "C" Company for a while continued to make progress until a strong point situated at the northern extremity of Poelcapelle brought them to a stop, after which they dug in to try and consolidate their gains. At midday the Germans launched a counter attack which was primarily concentrated towards the west of the village; their initial attack which was something of a probing type to try and ascertain the British strength was beaten off, as were several more later attacks 53 Brigade were in support and also had the 8th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment in the line, a significant gap between the Suffolk Regiment and the soldiers of the 4th Division was spotted by the Germans which resulted in the weak spot being attacked twice, the first of which occurred at noon and later at 0530 hours, both of which were successfully repelled.

ANDREWS, Private, **LAWRENCE BURGIN**, G/19016, 6th (Service) Battalion.
Died 3 May 1917. Aged 20.

Born Finsbury, Middlesex. Enlisted Wood Green, Middlesex. Resided Hornsey, Middlesex.

Buried Dury Crucifix Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. I. J. 59.

Formerly Private, G/22548, 28th (Reserve) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th (Service) Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so

serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance," also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant's Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a "Buff," we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram M.C. later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron

based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C. Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both R.F.C. officers thankfully survived the war.

ANDREWS, Private, SYDNEY JOHN, G/20049, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Killed in action 12 October 1917. Aged 23.

Born Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted and resided Sittingbourne, Kent.

Son of Alfred and Ann Andrews of 76, Lower Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Buried Peolcappelle British Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkeppele, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref. XXXVII. B. 1.

Commemorated on the Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent civic war memorial.

On the day that Sydney died, 55 Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, to which the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) belonged; during the 'First Battle of Passchendaele' assaulted Poelcapelle and Meunier House at 0520hours, with the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), the 7th (Service) Buffs and the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surreys in single file attack formation. The East Surrey Regiment spectacular advance of approximately 500 yards was eventually brought to a halt resultant of intensive fire from two machine-guns, which were ensconced in a well constructed position approximately 100 yards east of Gloster Farm, later during the evening the brigade was reassembled, following which the officers and other ranks were brought back to reform an assembly line, 100yards in front of the forming up tape. Sydney's battalion undertook another attack with "D" and "C" Companies, but "C" Company came under fire almost immediately from Gloster Farm and Point 37, but "D" Company managed to push on through the houses of Poelcapelle, but then came under fire from Meunier House and the Brewery, halting the attack with mounting casualties. The soldiers of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent's attacking with "B" company on the right, made quite good progress until they came under fire from the Brewery, although they were reinforced by "D" Company, the enemy fire power that they were subjected to was so intense and prolonged all they could do at the expense of even more casualties was to establish a series of posts just beyond their original line, "C" Company for a while continued to make progress until a strong point situated at the northern extremity of Poelcapelle brought them to a stop, after which they dug in to try and consolidate their gains. At midday the Germans launched a counter attack which was primarily concentrated towards the west of the village; their initial attack which was something of a probing type to try and ascertain the British strength was beaten off, as were several more later attacks 53 Brigade were in support and also had the 8th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment in the line, a significant gap between the Suffolk Regiment and the soldiers of the 4th Division was spotted by the Germans which resulted in the weak spot being attacked twice, the first of which occurred at noon and later at 0530 hours, both of which were successfully repelled.

ANDREWS, Private, WILLIAM, G/22353, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died of wounds 26 July 1917. Aged 26.

Born Chigwell, Essex. Enlisted Epping, Essex. Resided Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

Son of Albert Walter and Fanny Frances Andrews of 59 Albert Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. XVI. H. 17A.

SDGW records William as having died of wounds, and as such it has not been possible to add further details at the above brief commemoration regarding where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

ANDREWS, Private, WILLIAM, G/25896, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 23 October 1918.

Born Little Leighs, Chelmsford Essex. Enlisted Braintree, Essex. Resided Black Notley, Braintree, Essex.

Buried Brillon Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref. North part.

Due to the fact that William died of wounds, it has not been possible thus far to establish more details regarding the location, when or how he was mortally wounded. Brillon where William is at rest is a small village approximately eleven miles to the north west of Valenciennes. William is amongst six Commonwealth casualties who are buried in the Communal Cemetery at the village.

ANDREWS, Serjeant, WILLIAM ALBERT, S/718, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 26 September 1915. Aged 24.

Born Ash, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Tottenham, Middlesex. Resided Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of William and Florence Hannah Andrews of Plumbston Farm, Plumbston Road, Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15, also commemorated on the Ash, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

The 8th Battalion commanded by Colonel Frederick Charles Romer C.B., C.M.G. Sailed from Folkestone, Kent and arrived in Boulogne, France on 1 September 1915 where it then spent two days, after which a move was made to billets at the little village of Maninghem near Etaples, Pas de Calais, to undertake divisional training. William's battalion remained at Maninghem until 21 September 1915, when a march was undertaken by the battalion to assemble at the concentration area in preparation for the 'Battle of Loos,' the battalion marched to Bethune arriving early in the morning on 25 September, at 1100 hours the battalion formed up for Colonel Romer to address the officers and other ranks, short but to the point he said, "I am not going to make a speech to you, but only ask you to remember that you are THE BUFFS." Following their Colonels 'speech' the battalion then made another move nearer to the battle heading for Vermelles to take part in an attack which was planned for later that night. Marching over difficult terrain their division reached positions in the area of Bois Hugo, Chalk Pit Wood, Chalet Wood and Hill 70 Redoubt, which were advanced positions that faced the German's second line. A proposed attack planned for that night was eventually postponed, and the battalion received fresh orders which stated that they were to take part in an attack the following

morning. Just twenty four days after landing in France, and significantly with most of the officers and other ranks in the battalion never having been in action before, at 1030 hours on the following morning, orders were received by the 24th Division, (which included the 8th Battalion) for an attack to begin at 1100 hours, with the battalion detailed to attack the village of Hulluch. Set out below is the 8th Battalion War Diary entry for part of the 26 September 1915. "At 10.30 a.m. verbal orders arrived to prepare for an attack at 11 o'clock a.m. Almost at once the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of our trenches. At 11 a.m. an attack across open country commenced, the objective being a German position about a mile away. Artillery formation was adopted on leaving the trenches, but long distance rifle fire caused us to extend our lines almost immediately. The Buffs were supporting the West Kents. The advance was carried forward rapidly and by 11.30 a.m. the leading lines of the Buffs had arrived within 25 yards of the German barbed wire. No gaps could be observed in the wire entanglements. During the advance a heavy fire from machine guns on both flanks was encountered. At 1155 a.m. an order came down the line from the right to withdraw. The enemy's fire especially from our left flank became heavier and very considerable losses occurred. The Buffs were relieved during the night 26/27th 1915. Rested in a field close by Saily La Bourse." Because of the way that war diary entries are written, with their original intention not being for the benefit of amateur historians and the like, the above omits to adequately emphasize that when the battalion attacked at Hulluch, they had to cross a stretch of 'No Mans Land' approximately a mile wide, in tandem with the rest of the 72nd Brigade the battalion with mounting casualties eventually managed to reach their designated objective, despite being constantly heavily enfiladed by well placed enemy machine guns, only to then find that the enemy wire was still mainly intact in front of it. The Division to the battalion's right was subsequently forced to withdraw, which resulted in the right flank being exposed to even more enemy attention primarily in the form of machine gun fire and Germans artillery shellfire, incredibly the 8th Battalion withstood the enemies superior firepower for a full four hours before inevitably being forced to withdraw, during which time more casualties were inflicted on The Buffs, as can be seen from the war diary entry were relieved that night and initially fell back to Noeux les Mines where they bivouacked in pouring rain. The casualties to the battalion resulting from its first significant engagement of the Great War were truly staggering, as they amounted to at least 24 officers and 610 other ranks killed, wounded or missing, of that number 2 officers and 158 other ranks died on the day of the engagement which was fought by the battalion on 26 September 1915. Inevitably a significant number later succumbed to their wounds, resultant of the action fought at Hulluch. Amongst the officers the battalion only had one young officer Second Lieutenant J. Vaughan that was not a casualty, subsequently he was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry when leading the other ranks remnants of the battalion from the battle.

ANDREWS, Corporal, WILLIE VICTOR, T/203603, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 12 December 1917. Aged 22.

Born St. Stephen's, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Walter Henry and Ada Andrews of 52, Roper Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Hackington (St. Stephen) Churchyard, Canterbury, Kent.

Grave Ref. N.E. of church.

Commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

Willie has a MIC entry indicative of overseas active service in the Great War, which also shows the additional regimental number of 10668 also whilst serving as a Corporal in the regiment, in addition to which the entry also shows that Willie had served as Private 4973, in the 16th Lancers, who were always known as the 'Scarlet Lancers.' Unfortunately due to the fact that Willie died of wounds, it has regrettably not been possible at this point in time to add additional details appertaining to where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

ANGEL, Private, JOHN GEORGE HENRY, L/6680, "B" Company, 1st Battalion.

Died 20 October 1914. Aged 30.

Born St. Luke's, Middlesex. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Bethnal Green, Middlesex.

Son of the late John and Carrie Angel.

Husband of Sarah Angel of 41, Baxendale Street, Bethnal Green, London.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2. It was noted that John is not named amongst the 110 Bethnal Green, casualties who are commemorated in Bethnal Green Library, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2. John was an army reservist who had previously served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War). Initially he was posted as missing on the above date, prior to the confirmation of his death. On some of the data accessed; John's surname is spelt **ANGELL**. Following the fall of the city of Antwerp on 9 October 1914, it allowed for the release of a vast amount of German troops, and depending on what publication is read, the actual numbers of soldiers that then became available for duty elsewhere vary wildly. Despite generally accepted as containing numerous errors, the book by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B., detailing the regiments' contribution during the Great War, put the above number as 90,000, Colonel Moody also make mention that in addition to those enemy soldiers, four German Army Corps had also been brought from the Eastern Front to fight on the Western Front. With the mass of additional manpower available to the German High Command, the British and French troops the enemy from post the fall of Antwerp were vastly outnumbered. On 12 October 1914 the 1st Battalion was relieved in their trenches on the Aisne by French troops, and marched to the little village of Bazoches-sur-Vesles along with the 16th Brigade of the 6th Division to which the battalion belonged, and entrained from Bazoches-sur-Vesles to Cassel where they arrived the following day. The following is an extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "The 16th Infantry Brigade now rejoined the Division from the Aisne, and on the 18th October a reconnaissance in force was ordered, which was brilliantly carried out. The Buffs and Y. and L. on the right captured Radinghem without much opposition, and advanced across a small plateau, 300 yards in width, towards the woods in which stands the Château de Flandres. They here came under a heavy cross-fire of machine-guns and shrapnel, and were counter-attacked and driven back. The situation, however, was saved by Major Bayley's company of the Y. and L., which had worked round on the left and threatened the flank of the counter-attack, which thereon withdrew. The Y. and L. suffered considerable casualties in this little action--Major Robertson being killed. Meanwhile the

18th Infantry Brigade had captured Ennetières and the south end of Capinghem, while the 17th Infantry Brigade reached Prêmesques, but was unable to take Pérenchies. The 4th Division had not been able to cross the Lys north of Armentières, which necessitated the 17th Infantry Brigade throwing back its flank to l'Épinette. On the 19th October the Division entrenched on the line it had won. To the right were French cavalry and cyclists, covering the gap between the right of the III Corps and the left of the I Corps near Aubers. The advance from Hazebrouck to the ridge had occupied six days, and cost the Division some 750 casualties. On the morning of the 20th October the Germans attacked very heavily on the whole front. Fighting on a very extended front (five miles) and with very little in hand, the Division was soon in difficulties, particularly on the exposed left flank, where the Leinsters had their three left companies quickly driven in, and the situation at midday was critical. One company with the machine-guns was able to hold on until the afternoon at Mont de Prêmesques, and to withdraw under cover of darkness, having inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. Meanwhile units of other brigades were putting up a gallant fight against great odds, each unit generally with one or both flanks unsupported. At Ennetières, which formed rather a salient, the Sherwood Foresters held out all day, but were attacked at dusk by three battalions and practically annihilated or captured, only the CO., Adjutant, Q.M. and 250 other ranks remaining the next day. The Buffs, after a splendid fight, were driven out of Radinghem, and by night the Division was practically back on the line which it was to hold for the next few months, and on which the German offensive of 1918 still found the British. Continuous unsuccessful attempts to break through occurred till 31st October, when trench warfare set in. Notable among these was the attack on the K.S.L.I. and Y. and L. on the 23rd October, when 300 enemy dead were left in front of our trenches; on the 18th Infantry Brigade on the night of the 27/28th October, when the enemy captured the line, but was driven out by a counter-attack, in which the East Yorks specially distinguished themselves; and on the night of the 29/30th October, when the 19th Infantry Brigade lost some trenches, but counter-attacked successfully, and counted 200 German dead. The incident of Cpl. Forward, 1st The Buffs, is typical of the fierce fighting. On 30th October, when the O.C. machine-guns of The Buffs and all the team had been killed or wounded, this gallant N.C.O. continued to fire his gun until eventually wounded in five places, when he crawled back to report the situation. He was rewarded with the D.C.M. During the whole period, 20th to 30th October, the guns were woefully short of ammunition, and consequently a greater strain was thrown on the infantry."

ANGUS, Private, **NORMAN MORTIMER**, G/20833, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died Thursday 3 May 1917.

Born Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire, Wales. Enlisted Leeds, Yorkshire. Resided Cardiff, Glamorganshire, Wales.

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

With some justification it is probably fair to say that the various commentators remarks about the action fought on the 2/3 May 1917 at the village of Chérisy, to the south east of Arras, France, by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and by the other battalions taking part along the lines of it being a failure are well grounded. It should be hastily pointed out however, that non of those (irrespective of country etcetera) who have passed judgment on same, have ever leveled any criticisms or disparaging

remarks about those who took part in the action, which was undertaken as part of the overall battles of the Scarpe. On the night of 2/3 May 1917, Norman's battalion was opposite the village of Chérisy, which is situated only a short distance to the south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). Waiting in readiness for the attack were the officers and other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies who had been selected to be the assaulting companies, with 'C' as the supporting Company, and 'D' Company being held in reserve, waiting in shell holes to the rear of the support trench. At 0345 hours the first two companies set off towards the battalions prime objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917, it being a location named Keeling Copse. Fortunately all the battalion were clear of the front trench prior to it, and other locations being bombarded by German artillery. Blame for the confusion which had prevailed during the attack has been ascertained to numerous causes and people, but an overriding factor oft referred to was the fact that during the early stages of the days events, it had been pitch black. As the direct result of the lack of light, all the sections, platoons and even companies seen got mixed up and muddled. At one point virtually the whole of the 12th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, had crossed in front of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), but with a measure of commendable skill that error was corrected. With the coming of dawn the village of Chérisy was not only reached but actually passed, and as it was entered by the battalion touch was made with the same Middlesex battalion which had 'strayed' across its front earlier in the attack. Upon reaching the river Sensée beyond Chérisy, it was noted that the adjacent battalions had in fact lost touch with each other again. As the result of the set-back, Captain Black of 'A' Company wisely halted the battalion, and set about forming a defensive flank along the road which runs to the south east of Chérisy. Before the reorganization could be accomplished, the troops were heavily attacked, which had the additional result of the message sent back by Captain Black failing to get back. By 0900 hours Captain Black's Company on the right flank of the battalion was unable to move. Resulting from the situation which 'A' Company was in, had the effect of those on the opposite flank losing what advantages it had made, with both 'B' and 'C' Companies having by that time also fought their way to the Sensée. Shortly afterwards, fresh orders were received by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), to advance in unison with the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to the 'Red Line,' and their fellow 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, members of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), to consolidate the 'Blue Line.' At approximately 1100 hours unclear reports filtered through that a general retirement was taking place, at a time when stretcher bearers and the like were engaged on rescue undertakings. An unfortunate result of the confusion generated by the 'retirement' was that those engaged on the rescues, those retiring and the enemy soldiers were to all intents and purposes intermingled, which had the knock on effect of making it virtually impossible to open fire. After the 'retirement' was stopped the attack, albeit with less momentum got under way again, and as late as 1915 hours an attempt was made to reoccupy 'Cable Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), supported by Norman's battalion, but it was to no avail as the assaulting battalion was driven back by intense German machine gun and rifle fire. By the end of the day on 3 May 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was back in the original front line trenches. As the result of the failed attack at Chérisy, the battalion had two officers killed,

six wounded and four missing, and the casualties to the other ranks were one hundred and twenty killed, one hundred and sixty nine wounded, and approximately one hundred missing.

ANSELL, Lance Corporal, **FRANK OSWALD**, G/3211, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 8 July 1917. Aged 26.

Born Hampstead, Middlesex. Enlisted Wimbledon, Surrey. Resided Crawley Down, Crawley, Sussex.

Son of Frederick and Emily Ansell of West View Cottage, Turners Hill Road, Crawley Down, Crawley, Sussex.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, also commemorated on the Crawley Down, Crawley, Sussex civic war memorial.

It would appear that Frank was the only member of the 7th (Service) Battalion to die on 8 July 1917; SDGW records his death as killed in action.

ANTHONY, Private, **WILLIAM JOHN**, G/9850, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 12 July 1917. Aged 23.

Born Bagmone, Norfolk. Enlisted Downham, Norfolk. Resided Shouldham Thorpe, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Husband of Ethel Mary Anthony of Shouldham Thorpe, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

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

As part of the 12th (Eastern) Division, William's battalion was amongst those which from 17 May 1917 held positions to the east of the relatively high and commanding position of the village of Monchy le Preux, south east of Arras, the village having been captured by Commonwealth forces on 11 April 1917. A lot of manual work was carried out by the division, as the position held in May was mainly comprised of various sized shell holes and disconnected parts of trenches, with only a very few dugouts and no communications. Resulting from a successful attack carried out in the area by the 3rd Division, amongst the manual tasks that was undertaken by the soldiers of the 12th (Eastern) Division, was to clear the detritus of war left behind after the 3rd Division attack, including the recovery and burial of those who had been killed, in addition to the disposal of the dead horses. A number of raids and small scale attacks were also carried out by the battalion, and also repelling the attacks which was made against the division, notably in the area of Hook Trench, Pick Avenue, and Tites Copse. It was a raid on a line of enemy held shell holes opposite the last named location that the 6th (Service) Battalion had originally intended to carry out a raid on the day prior to William's death. At 0500 hours on 11 July 1917 German infantry attacked the Long and Hook trenches, which were carried out following the bombardment of both locations by artillery and trench mortars. In addition to the bombardment, the Germans also used Flammenwerfer (Flamethrowers), all of which resulted in the battalion outposts being overwhelmed. After feigning an attack at a particular point of Long Trench as a diversionary tactic, the Germans broke into the trench at another point. Once breached, enemy soldiers quickly rushed into the portion they then held, and at the same time managing to also gain shell holes to the side and rear of the 6th (Service) Battalion positions. Approximately two and a half hours later, the Buffs counter attacked following a bombardment by guns attached to their division, but ultimately failed due to heavy machine gun fire. Second Lieutenant

Norman O.F. Gunther M.C., an attached 19 year old officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry, and 9 other ranks were originally noted as killed, but regrettably that figure grew, when 30 other ranks who were initially put down as missing, were subsequently found to have perished before the German guns; and in addition to those who fell, another officer and 26 other ranks were wounded. When out of the line at this time, units of the 12th (Eastern) Division took part in a number of training schemes at Beaurains, where a scale model of the area occupied had been built for the purposes of instruction. Despite the events of the previous day, thankfully no other ranks in the battalion are recorded in/on SDGW as having died of wounds the following day, but four are shown as being killed in action, with William being amongst their number.

APPLEFORD, Private, ISAAC, G/12680, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 12 July 1917.

Born Hampstead Norris, Berkshire. Enlisted Newbury, Berkshire. Resided Eastridge, Ramsey, Wiltshire.

Buried Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm), Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref. VII. S. 22.

There is a problem regarding which battalion of regiment Isaac was actually serving in at the time of his death, which SDGW records as died of wounds. The aforementioned records Isaac as having been a member of the 1st Battalion, but his CWGC commemoration details record him as serving in the 7th (Service) Battalion. Although the 'G' prefix on his regimental number would be indicative of him being a member of a Home Counties Service Battalion, by the time of Isaac's demise many 'Kitchener Men' were serving in the regular battalions as replacements for the earlier casualties suffered by the regulars. In view of the above it has not been possible to add any details regarding the happenings to Isaac's battalion on the day he died, which is compounded by the fact that he probably died of wounds, as opposed to being killed in action.

APPLETON, Private, ALFRED, G/2696, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 March 1916.

Born St. George's, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Deal, Kent. Resided Eastcliffe, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

In view of the events involving the 6th (Service) Battalion during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' and during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year, it is not really surprising that the happenings effecting the battalion during the intervening period between those two battles, often only gets scant mention. Possibly over the years, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not been alone in being guilty when reading about the events regarding the 6th (Service) Battalion during March 1916, to be drawn, or more correctly probably fixated, on the heroism of Corporal William Cotter V.C., on 6 March 1916 near the Hohenzollern Redoubt. William being the sole recipient of a Victoria Cross awarded to a member of the regiment during the Great War, but of course like William, many other members of his battalion forfeited their lives that same month; including at least 33 other ranks on 18 March 1916, one of whom was Alfred Appleton. In an attempt to add additional information at these brief commemorations, for the relatives of those who died serving in the regiment during the Great War, the transcriber has resorted to the

use of various data sources, and as regards to the events of 18 March 1916 involving the 6th (Service) Battalion, the relevant pages contained in 'The History of the 12th (Eastern) Division in the Great War 1914-1918,' which was edited by Major-General Sir Arthur B. Scott, K.C.B., D.S.O., and compiled by P. Middleton Brumwell M.C., C.F. In addition to describing the fate of some of the 6th (Service) Battalion personnel, reference is also made regarding the loss of the divisional canteen when recording the days events in the book, which has been added here verbatim: - "On the 18th of March, at 5 p.m., the Germans opened up a violent bombardment on the craters, blew some mines and attacked. Vermelles was heavily shelled, and in two hours some 2,000 shells fell in its vicinity. One, unfortunately, hit the divisional canteen, and biscuits, chocolate, cake and cigarettes went sky high. A barrage was placed on our communications as far back as Annequin and Noyelles, a large number of lachrymose shell being used. The minenwerfers did much damage to the craters and front line defences. All communication wires were cut, and initiative passed to the lower commanders and frequently to non-commissioned officers. On the right of the line, held by the 6th Buffs, the garrisons of Nos. 1 and 2 and "A" craters were all killed or buried, and confusion rendered worse by the fact that West Face and the top end of Saville Row, Saps 9 and 9a, had been filled in by the debris from the explosions. The Germans seized the craters, and our counter-attack was delayed until these saps were cleared. Eventually three companies of the 6th Royal West Kent delivered a counter-attack and regained the near lips of these craters. The 7th East Surrey were holding the left of the line, and here "C" crater was blown up, and the Germans rushed "B" and No.4, and for some time held Sap 12 and Russian Sap, penetrating to Sticky Trench. Company-Sergt-Major Palmer and three others appear to have been all that were left of the garrison of "C" crater after the explosion. They continued bombing and firing until driven back to "B," and thence to No.4, and finally out of that. A very gallant counter-attack by a party of the 7th East Surrey, led by Captain Scott, bombed the enemy out of No.4, and established posts overlooking "B," somewhat restoring the position in this sector. Meanwhile blocks had been established in Sap 12 and Russian Sap, and by 9.25 p.m. these positions had been consolidated. No.3 crater had been held throughout the attack. At 3.15 a.m. on the 19th inst, some of the 6th Queen's, under captain Cannon, regained the near lips of "B" and "C" craters, but had to withdraw from the latter at daylight." When the 6th (Service) Battalion was later withdrawn from the sector for a period of rest, it did so near the small town of Lillers which is located about eleven miles north west of Bethune, and where the town Communal Cemetery is the final resting place of Corporal William Cotter V.C.

APPLETON, Private, ARTHUR EDWARD, G/5019, 2nd Battalion.

Died 3 May 1915. Aged 21.

Born and resided Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Appleton.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, and on the Whitstable, Kent civic war memorial.

On 1 May 1915 the Arthur's battalion had a fresh draft of other ranks join it in Belgium direct from England, who due primarily to time constraints were not initially allotted to the different companies in the 2nd Battalion, and it was decided to locate the new men in a new support trench in front of a wood. All of the positions occupied by the battalion

were subjected to an extraordinary amount of enemy shellfire the day after the arrival of the fresh draft, with numerous casualties being inflicted on the battalion. Several commentators have made very similar comments when referring to the days' events, along the lines of the British artillery guns being virtually powerless to offer support and return shellfire onto the German artillery gun emplacements. Many of the same commentators, and also probably of more important significance and relevance, is some of the correspondence which was written by some of the survivors who had served in the battalion during late April and early May 1915, with the writers of same commenting about not getting artillery support due to the lack of the gunners ammunition. Many of the gunners also became casualties, as the direct result of being fired upon by enemy field guns. During the hours of darkness on the night of 2/3 May the intensity of the German shelling subsided, but at first light on the morning of Monday 3 May 1915, the artillery bombardment of the battalion positions was once again renewed. Throughout the whole of the day on Monday 3 May the enemy guns continued to fire at will, and as on the previous day, the doubtless frustrated British gunners were unable to offer all but a token reply. During the morning 38 year old Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon who was commanding at that time, reported many casualties, and that the trench parapets had been blown in and that the situation was critical. Later it became even worse, with the bombardment being so rapid as to being likened to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire. One of the trenches held by the battalion called D.5, was rushed by enemy infantry, but it would seem that none of the members of "C" Company who had been ensconced in the trench, were at that time in a position to offer any form of resistance during the German assault. Captain L. Howard Smith, Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, and approximately eighty other ranks had formerly occupied D.5, but had all been killed or wounded, and all were later reported as missing. At the time of Ernest's death, there were no communication trenches in common use, and as such the parties of soldiers of varying sizes, were to all intents and purposes isolated and cut-off from help and/or support once in place in the allocated trenches, or other forms of defensive cover such as shell holes, the reason being that as the engagements raged, it would have been far too hazardous to cross above ground between the trenches. Probably due to the fact that D.5 fell to the enemy, who had also possessed woods located behind that particular trench complex, it appears to have had the knock on effect of another trench (D.4), also being captured by enemy infantry. Following the capture of D.5, by the enemy soldiers, D.4 was then subjected to fire by the Germans, who had taken over the occupancy of the former 2nd Battalion trench. Compounding the perilous position faced by the members of the battalion in D.4 was the enemy firing coming from the nearby wood in the enemies' hands. Captain Houblon, and a Lieutenant Sharp along with other what remained of "D" Company, and a few stragglers made gallant efforts to remain in trench D.4, but resulting from the firing coming in from both sides, their position became virtually un-defendable, necessitating a withdrawal along the trench line, a maneuver that was conducted with commendable steady order and control. To assist with the final withdrawal from D.4, at great risk to themselves, covering fire was provided by Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, and by Private, 7852, Frederick Campbell who were both members of "C" Company, miraculously both of whom managed to extricate themselves from the trench whilst under heavy fire. Although he was wounded during the fierce engagement, Lieutenant Sharp and the survivors of Captain Houblon's party eventually

managed to reach trench D.3, and later reached D.1, which was held by Captain Barnard with "A" Company. A small party of members of the battalion led by Second Lieutenant, Ellis Brockman, Backhouse, and a company of soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), led by Captain R. Ford, did however manage to tenaciously hold on to a new support trench, during which time they were subjected to horrendous enfilade fire from enemy heavy howitzers and other artillery pieces. In much the same way that the earlier withdrawals had been steadily conducted, the battalion later moved back to bivouacs located in a wood near Poperinghe, taking with it all the wounded that could be moved, spare ammunition, tools, and equipment being taken with the battalion. Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and received his commission. The relevant London Gazette entry for his D.C.M., dated 30 June 1915, reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 3rd May 1915, in holding on to a trench to the last, covering the retirement of his men to another position. The enemy, of whom he killed many, were only yards away." Frederick Campbell who also made the heroic rearguard stand with Ernest G. Port D.C.M., apparently was not even Mentioned in Despatches, or "B" for Record, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers, and served as a Serjeant in a Railway Company. Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, was later promoted to Captain and became an Adjutant, Captain L. Howard Smith, was later promoted to Major, and Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon, who was a son of Colonel George Archer Houblon, was also promoted to the rank of Major, and was attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Major Henry Houblon later inherited the Hallingbury Place Estate, Essex which had been used extensively by the British army during the Great War, and offered it on lease, but possibly resultant of the prevailing economic climate which prevailed at that time no one came forward, and eventually it was put up for sale. In October 1923, the great house was demolished, and the materials and contents put up for sale and the estate broken up. Due primarily to the fact that Arthur had not been an officer, it has not been possible thus far to be able to ascertain how, when, or where he actually died, during the somewhat one-sided engagement that was fought by the 2nd Battalion on 3 May 1915, which I know to have cost the lives of at least 144 other ranks. It is particularly regrettable that the names etcetera, of many of the men who had joined the battalion as members of the drafts, that had been posted to the battalion on 30 April & 1 May 1915, were initially not known, and as such it would probably be fair to assume that in many cases that unfortunate status is still applicable at this point in time (June 2004). It has also been frustrating to have not been able thus far, to ascertain the time amount of time that Arthur had spent serving in the battalion, or if was of only less than a week, which would be applicable to those who joined via the last two drafts to the 2nd Battalion.

APPLETON, Private, CHARLES ERNEST, T/4590. 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion.
Died 18 October 1916.

Born Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Canterbury Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref. B. 462.

Charles is recorded as 'Died' in/on SDGW, and as his death certificate or any other relevant supporting information has not been sighted, regrettably it has not been possible to add any further details appertaining to his demise, at the time of adding the above brief commemoration to him.

APPLETON, Private, EDWARD WILLIAM, G/4527, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died of wounds 19 March 1916. Aged 34.

Born Chelsea, Middlesex. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Edward Thomas and Alice Appleton of Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Husband of May Victoria Appleton of 50, Dumpton Road, The Haven, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. V. D. 1.

Due to the fact that Edward is recorded in/on SDGW as having died of wounds, it has not been possible to add any accurate details at this brief commemoration, regarding where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

APPLETON, Private, RICHARD WALTER, G/25904, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 8 October 1918. Aged 19.

Born Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Maldon, Essex, (please see below). Enlisted Chelmsford, Essex. Resided Southchurch, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

Son of Ernest and Rose Appleton of Coachman's Farm, Shoeburyness, Essex.

Buried Sucrierie Cemetery, Ablain-St. Nazaire, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref. VII. A. 8.

Richard's place of birth as shown above is as accessed from his SDGW entry; however Richard's CWGC commemoration details show him as having been a native of Great Wakering, Essex. The village and the neighbourhood of Ablain-St. Nazaire were the scene of very severe fighting between the French and the Germans in May and June, 1915. Sucrierie Cemetery where Richard is at rest is named from a sugar factory, that was destroyed during the Great War, and which has been replaced by a farm. It was begun in April 1917, and situated next to a French Military Cemetery of 1,900 graves, which have since been removed. Sucrierie Cemetery was used until October 1918 and was at one time called Saskatchewan Cemetery, and in accordance with the Canadian practice, it was numbered C.D. 43. Richard is one of only two casualties who are recorded in/on SDGW as serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, both of whom are shown as having been killed in action. The other casualty who fell was Private, G/25878, Thomas Green a native and resident of Haddenham, Cambridgeshire, who is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. It was noted that Thomas is not commemorated on the civic war memorial at his village, but is commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of Holy Trinity, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire. Having enjoyed a brief respite of only five days duration, which was taken at the village of Caucourt to the north west of Arras, on 6 October 1918 the 6th (Service) Battalion boarded a number of omnibus that were taking the battalion to Avion, south of Éleu-dit-Leauwette, from where the battalion marched into nearby trenches located at Mericourt just to the south east of Lens. In line with the usual practice in 1918 during the pursuit of the retreating enemy, the 12th (Eastern) Division regularly changed its battalions on a brigade basis, as the lead battalion, thus alleviating the likelihood of a high casualty rate to a single battalion. The 37th Brigade to which the their battalion belonged, relieved the 36th Brigade on the day that Richard Appleton and Thomas Green lost their lives, and as

such it would seem likely that they both fell the victims of machine gun fire when attacked by the fleeing enemy soldiers. Having established its patrols at Molly Villers, approximately a thousand yards in front of the divisional line, the 6th (Service) Battalion, was then relieved by the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), who upon reaching La Placette encountered a number of German cavalry patrols, one of which charged the West Kent's, but were driven off at the cost of one dead and three wounded cavalrymen.

APPLETON, Lance Corporal, THOMAS EDWARD, G/5553, 7th (Service) Battalion.
Died 3 July 1916. Aged 27.

Born Newington, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Folkestone, Kent.

Son of George and E. Appleton of 45, Marshall Street, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave Ref. II. B. 17.

Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial.

Due to the fact that Thomas is recorded in/on SDGW as having died of wounds, it has not been possible to add more details at this brief commemoration regarding where, when or how he was mortally wounded. Thomas was one of only two other ranks in the 7th (Service) Battalion on 3 July 1916. In view of Thomas's place of burial and the date

APPLETON, Private, WILLIAM WALTER, G/4953, 2nd Battalion.

Died 3 May 1915. Aged 18.

Born, enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Martha E. Appleton of 9, Garden Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and the late William J. Appleton.

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

On 1 May 1915 the Ernest's battalion had a fresh draft of other ranks join it in Belgium direct from England, who due primarily to time constraints were not initially allotted to the different companies in the 2nd Battalion, and it was decided to locate the new men in a new support trench in front of a wood. All of the positions occupied by the battalion were subjected to an extraordinary amount of enemy shellfire the day after the arrival of the fresh draft, with numerous casualties being inflicted on the battalion. Several commentators have made very similar comments when referring to the days' events, along the lines of the British artillery guns being virtually powerless to offer support and return shellfire onto the German artillery gun emplacements. Many of the same commentators, and also probably of more important significance and relevance, is some of the correspondence which was written by some of the survivors who had served in the battalion during late April and early May 1915, with the writers of same commenting about not getting artillery support due to the lack of the gunners ammunition. Many of the gunners also became casualties, as the direct result of being fired upon by enemy field guns. During the hours of darkness on the night of 2/3 May the intensity of the German shelling subsided, but at first light on the morning of Monday 3 May 1915, the artillery bombardment of the battalion positions was once again renewed. Throughout the whole of the day on Monday 3 May the enemy guns continued to fire at will, and as on the previous day, the doubtless frustrated British gunners were unable to offer all but a token reply. During the morning 38 year old Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon who was commanding at that time, reported many casualties, and that the trench parapets had been

blown in and that the situation was critical. Later it became even worse, with the bombardment being so rapid as to being likened to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire. One of the trenches held by the battalion called D.5, was rushed by enemy infantry, but it would seem that none of the members of "C" Company who had been ensconced in the trench, were at that time in a position to offer any form of resistance during the German assault. Captain L. Howard Smith, Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, and approximately eighty other ranks had formerly occupied D.5, but had all been killed or wounded, and all were later reported as missing. At the time of Ernest's death, there were no communication trenches in common use, and as such the parties of soldiers of varying sizes, were to all intents and purposes isolated and cut-off from help and/or support once in place in the allocated trenches, or other forms of defensive cover such as shell holes, the reason being that as the engagements raged, it would have been far too hazardous to cross above ground between the trenches. Probably due to the fact that D.5 fell to the enemy, who had also possessed woods located behind that particular trench complex, it appears to have had the knock on effect of another trench (D.4), also being captured by enemy infantry. Following the capture of D.5, by the enemy soldiers, D.4 was then subjected to fire by the Germans, who had taken over the occupancy of the former 2nd Battalion trench. Compounding the perilous position faced by the members of the battalion in D.4 was the enemy firing coming from the nearby wood in the enemies' hands. Captain Houblon, and a Lieutenant Sharp along with other what remained of "D" Company, and a few stragglers made gallant efforts to remain in trench D.4, but resulting from the firing coming in from both sides, their position became virtually un-defendable, necessitating a withdrawal along the trench line, a maneuver that was conducted with commendable steady order and control. To assist with the final withdrawal from D.4, at great risk to themselves, covering fire was provided by Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, and by Private, 7852, Frederick Campbell who were both members of "C" Company, miraculously both of whom managed to extricate themselves from the trench whilst under heavy fire. Although he was wounded during the fierce engagement, Lieutenant Sharp and the survivors of Captain Houblon's party eventually managed to reach trench D.3, and later reached D.1, which was held by Captain Barnard with "A" Company. A small party of members of the battalion led by Second Lieutenant, Ellis Brockman, Backhouse, and a company of soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), led by Captain R. Ford, did however manage to tenaciously hold on to a new support trench, during which time they were subjected to horrendous enfilade fire from enemy heavy howitzers and other artillery pieces. In much the same way that the earlier withdrawals had been steadily conducted, the battalion later moved back to bivouacs located in a wood near Poperinghe, taking with it all the wounded that could be moved, spare ammunition, tools, and equipment being taken with the battalion. Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and received his commission. The relevant London Gazette entry for his D.C.M., dated 30 June 1915, reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 3rd May 1915, in holding on to a trench to the last, covering the retirement of his men to another position. The enemy, of whom he killed many, were only yards away." Frederick Campbell who also made the heroic rearguard stand with Ernest G. Port D.C.M., apparently was not even Mentioned in Despatches, or "B" for Record, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers, and served as a Serjeant in a Railway Company.

Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, was later promoted to Captain and became an Adjutant, Captain L. Howard Smith, was later promoted to Major, and Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon, who was a son of Colonel George Archer Houblon, was also promoted to the rank of Major, and was attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Major Henry Houblon later inherited the Hallingbury Place Estate, Essex which had been used extensively by the British army during the Great War, and offered it on lease, but possibly resultant of the prevailing economic climate which prevailed at that time no one came forward, and eventually it was put up for sale. In October 1923, the great house was demolished, and the materials and contents put up for sale and the estate broken up. Due primarily to the fact that Ernest had not been an officer, it has not been possible thus far to be able to ascertain how, when, or where he actually died, during the somewhat one-sided engagement that was fought by the 2nd Battalion on 3 May 1915, which I know to have cost the lives of at least 144 other ranks. It is particularly regrettable that the names etcetera, of many of the men who had joined the battalion as members of the drafts, that had been posted to the battalion on 30 April & 1 May 1915, were initially not known, and as such it would probably be fair to assume that in many cases that unfortunate status is still applicable at this point in time (June 2004). It has also been frustrating to have not been able thus far, to ascertain the time amount of time that Ernest had spent serving in the battalion, or if was of only less than a week, which would be applicable to those who joined via the last two drafts to the 2nd Battalion.

APPS, Private, ALFRED, S/10477, 1st Battalion.

Died 19 June 1915.

Born and resided Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Shorncliffe, Kent.

Buried Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. B. 8.

Commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of All Souls, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent.

SDGW records Alfred as having died of wounds, and as such it has not been possible at this time to add further details regarding where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

APPS, Lance Corporal, EDWARD ALFRED, G/15735, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 2/3 May 1917.

Born Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted and resided Sittingbourne, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent civic war memorial.

With some justification it is probably fair to say that the various commentators remarks about the action fought on the 2/3 May 1917 at the village of Chérisy, to the south east of Arras, France, by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and by the other battalions taking part along the lines of it being a failure are well grounded. It should be hastily pointed out however, that non of those (irrespective of country etcetera) who have passed judgment on same, have ever leveled any criticisms or disparaging remarks about those who took part in the action, which was undertaken as part of the overall battles of the Scarpe. On the night of 2/3 May 1917, Edward's battalion was opposite the village of Chérisy, which is situated only a short distance to the south of the Arras to Cambrai road (D939). Waiting in readiness for the attack were the officers and

other ranks of both 'A' and 'B' Companies who had been selected to be the assaulting companies, with 'C' as the supporting Company, and 'D' Company being held in reserve, waiting in shell holes to the rear of the support trench. At 0345 hours the first two companies set off towards the battalions prime objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917, it being a location named Keeling Copse. Fortunately all the battalion was clear of the front trench prior to it, and other locations being bombarded by German artillery. Blame for the confusion which had prevailed during the attack has been ascertained to numerous causes and people, but an overriding factor oft referred to was the fact that during the early stages of that days events, it had been pitch black. As the direct result of the lack of light, all the sections, platoons and even companies seen got mixed up and muddled. At one point virtually the whole of the 12th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, had crossed in front of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), but with a measure of commendable skill that error was corrected. With the coming of dawn the village of Chérisy was not only reached but actually passed, and as it was entered by the battalion touch was made with the same Middlesex battalion which had 'strayed' across its front earlier in the attack. Upon reaching the river Sensée beyond Chérisy, it was noted that the adjacent battalions had in fact lost touch with each other again. As the result of the set-back, Captain Black of 'A' Company wisely halted the battalion, and set about forming a defensive flank along the road which runs to the south east of Chérisy. Before the reorganization could be accomplished, the troops were heavily attacked, which had the additional result of the message sent back by Captain Black failing to get back. By 0900 hours Captain Black's Company on the right flank of the battalion was unable to move. Resulting from the situation which 'A' Company was in, had the effect of those on the opposite flank losing what advantages it had made, with both 'B' and 'C' Companies having by that time also fought their way to the Sensée. Shortly afterwards, fresh orders were received by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), to advance in unison with the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment to the 'Red Line,' and their fellow 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division, members of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), to consolidate the 'Blue Line.' At approximately 1100 hours unclear reports filtered through that a general retirement was taking place, at a time when stretcher bearers and the like were engaged on rescue undertakings. An unfortunate result of the confusion generated by the 'retirement' was that those engaged on the rescues, those retiring and the enemy soldiers were to all intents and purposes intermingled, which had the knock on effect of making it virtually impossible to open fire. After the 'retirement' was stopped, the attack, albeit with less momentum got under way again, and as late as 1915 hours an attempt was made to reoccupy 'Cable Trench' by the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), supported by Edward's battalion, but it was to no avail as the assaulting battalion was driven back by intense German machine gun and rifle fire. By the end of the day on 3 May 1917, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was back in the original front line trenches. As the result of the failed attack at Chérisy, the battalion had two officers killed, six wounded and four missing, and the casualties to the other ranks were one hundred and twenty killed, one hundred and sixty nine wounded, and approximately one hundred missing. It was noted when checking Edward's SDGW records that he is the only member of the 7th (Service) Battalion to have been entered as having died on 2 May

1917, although doubtless others who are shown as having died on 3 May 1917 also lost their lives the previous day, during the action briefly described above.

APPS, Private, EDWARD THOMAS, G/8166, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 3 May 1917.

Born Bredhurst, Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent. Resided Hartlip, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Hartlip, Sittingbourne, Kent civic war memorial.

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B

Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance," also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant's Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a "Buff," we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram M.C. later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C. Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both R.F.C. officers thankfully survived the war.

AAPS, Private, WILLIAM, G/1967, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 13 October 1915.

Born and resided Burham, Rochester, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15, also commemorated on the Burham, Rochester, Kent civic war memorial.

For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks

on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included William's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up.

Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by William's battalion on 13 October 1915 which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

ARCHER, Second Lieutenant, ALBERT ERSKINE CARSON.

The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and 242 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.

Died 9 February 1916. Aged 19.

Born Beanfield, Stilloan, Blackrock, County Dublin, Ireland.

Son of Thomas and Emily M. Archer of Airfield, Donnybrook, Dublin, Ireland.

Buried Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. B. 25.

Although Albert is shown in/on ODGW as having been killed in action, which might be correct, it should however be noted that the vast majority who are at rest at Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery died of wounds. St. Omer was the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force from October 1914 to March 1916. During the years of the Great War the town was a considerable hospital centre, with the 4th, 10th, 7th Canadian, 9th Canadian and New Zealand Stationary Hospitals, the 7th, 58th (Scottish) and 59th (Northern) General Hospitals, and the 17th, 18th and 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations all stationed there at some time during the war. St. Omer suffered air raids in November 1917 and May 1918, with serious loss of life. The Commonwealth section of the cemetery contains 2,874 Commonwealth burials of the Great War (6 unidentified), with special memorials commemorating 23 men of the Chinese Labour Corps whose graves could not be exactly located. The number of ladies who served as medical staff that are at rest in the cemetery strikes home each time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations has visited the cemetery where Albert is at rest, they lie near to the Chinese Labour Corps special memorials.

ARCHER, Private, HENRY JAMES, G/2411, 2nd Battalion.

Died of sickness 21 September 1918. Aged 28.

Born and resided Barking, Essex. Enlisted London.

Son of Henry James and Eliza Ann Archer of 11, Cooke Street, Barking, Essex.

Buried Bralo British Cemetery, Greece. Grave Ref. 11.

The cemetery where Henry is at rest contains 102 war graves; comprised of 95 Commonwealth burials of the Great War, and 7 war graves of other nationalities. A large proportion of the burials at the cemetery are those of the victims of the world wide Influenza pandemic of 1918. As Henry is recorded in/on SDGW as having died of sickness as opposed to losing his life in action, it would seem very likely that he too was a victim of the 1918 global Influenza pandemic, which ultimately claimed an estimated 50 million lives around the world.

ARCHER, Lieutenant, JOHN WILLIAM BUTTS, 2nd Battalion.

Died of wounds Tuesday 16 February 1915. Aged 24.

Born Longfield, Halifax, Yorkshire 14 March 1890.

Only son of the Reverend George, and Beatrice Butts Archer (née Butts) of Stilton Rectory, Peterborough, Northamptonshire.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, also commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque located on the outside of Stilton, Cambridgeshire, Memorial Hall, and on a similar memorial plaque which is located in the parish church St. Mary Magdalene, Stilton, Cambridgeshire.

John's entry in the Roll of Honour 1914-18, by the Marquis de Ruvigny, shows that he was initially educated at Stubbington, which the transcriber of this brief commemoration has **assumed** is probably a reference to the former Stubbington House School, Earleywood, Bagshot Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 9JU, which was closed on 7 July 1997. Following his time spent at Stubbington, John continued his education in France prior to going to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, Kent, from where he was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant on 5 October 1910, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 9 March 1912. John served at Singapore 1910-1912, followed by service in India 1912-1914. At the commencement of the Great War, the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was stationed at Wellington, India, and like many other battalions that were serving in India, Egypt and Singapore, the battalion was recalled back to the United Kingdom. In accordance with the battalions' orders, it embarked at Bombay on 16 November 1914, onboard the 8,845 ton Cunard Line ship SS Ultonia. Constructed by C. S. Swan & Hunter, and completed in 1898 at Wallsend-on-Tyne, the SS Ultonia was launched on 4 June 1898, originally destined for use in the cargo and cattle trade. The following year she was fitted out with third class accommodation for 675 passengers, and in 1904 she was rebuilt, and fitted out for second class accommodation for 120 passengers, with third class at that time fitted to accommodate 2,100 passengers, all of which had resulted in her new tonnage being upped to 10,402 gross. Despite it only being ten years after being rebuilt etcetera, it was noted that the book recording the history of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), during the Great War, is not the only regimental history of that era, to make comments along the lines of when used as a troopship, and that the SS Ultonia was old, slow and dirty. In the case of the battalions journey from Bombay, the apparent below par overall condition of the ship, and the misery caused by same was compounded by the overcrowded conditions due to the 2nd Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment, that also (of necessity) was onboard on the journey back to England. After making a wide detour in the Atlantic to avoid enemy submarines, the SS Ultonia eventually docked on 23 December 1914 at Plymouth, Devon, and not at its original destination of Southampton, Hampshire. From the port of Southampton, John went with his battalion to Winchester, Hampshire, in the 85th Brigade, 28th Division. From Winchester John went on leave, and arrived back home at Stilton Rectory, Northamptonshire in late December 1914. After spending the short spell of leave with his family, John along with the rest of his battalion, apart from the few personnel who had remained in India, returned again to Southampton from where it left on 17 January 1915, and sailed for the French port of Le Harve. From the port, the battalion entrained to Hazebrouck near the Belgium border, which was reached on 21 January 1915, from

Hazebrouck the battalion marched to billets at Rouge-Croix. On 2 February a move was made to Ouderdom, and two days later the battalion moved forward to occupy reserve positions at Bedford House, the tenure of which was brief, as the battalion returned back to Ouderdom the following day. Three days after being back to Ouderdom, the battalion were in trenches which were situated to the north of the Ypres-Comines canal. On 14/15 February 1915, the battalion was involved in fighting at a position named 'O' trench where casualties were inflicted on the it. 31 year old Lieutenant Robert M. Haywood died of wounds on 15 February, and on the following day 33 year old Captain, Lawrence Fort from Hythe, Kent was killed in action, and John died of the wounds he had received the previous day. In addition to the officer casualties, thirty other ranks in the battalion lost their lives 14-16 February 1915. John's entry in the Roll of Honour 1914-18 by the Marquis de Ruvigny, is quite comprehensive including a letter quoted from his Commanding Officer which reads "It appears that on the night of 15 Feb (almost exactly a month after he went to France) Lieut Archer was sent out with his men to the relief of a regiment which was holding a trench had been attacked by the Germans in the dark. He succeeded in fighting his way to the trench at the expense of half his men and of his own gallant life. The effort to hold the trench was successful. It was Lieut Archer's task thus to take the lead in the counter-attack which the Brigade made to retake the trenches which had been lost, but the other regiments were so badly knocked about by a bitter shell fire that they could not get up to support him and his gallant little handful of men, and so the work was splendidly done by this small company themselves. When he fell mortally wounded, they carried him at enormous risk to themselves, into a dug-out in the trench, and here he died about twenty-four hours afterwards, for it was impossible to get him out of the trench and into hospital in face of the terrible fire which was maintained."

ARCHER, Private, WILLIAM JAMES, G/2318, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 13 October 1915. Aged 23.

Born and resided Barking, Essex. Enlisted London.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry James Archer of 11, Cooke Street, Barking, Essex.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the

Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included William's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by William's battalion on 13 October 1915 which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

ARGENT, Private, JOHN WILLIAM, L/8566, 1st Battalion.

Died 19 July 1915.

Born Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Old Brompton, Chatham, Kent.

Son of William and Ellen Argent of Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

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

Grave Ref. C. 2.

Events appertaining to John's battalion during the period of his death were comparatively uneventful, despite which casualties continued to rise, due to a variety of causes. The following is a short extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "On the night of the 31st May/1st June the Division took over its new front in the Ypres Salient, commencing its long tour in that unsavoury region, and trench casualties almost doubled immediately. It continued in the Salient up to the end of July 1916, with three periods of rest, each of about a months duration: the first spent in the neighbourhood of Houtkerque and Poperinghe, in November and December 1915; the second in the Houtkerque-Wormhoudt area, with one brigade at a time back at Calais from mid-March to mid-April 1916; and the third again in the Houtkerque-Wormhoudt area from mid-June to mid-July 1916. The nature of these rests has been humorously but not untruthfully portrayed in the columns of *Punch*; the author of 'At the Front' in that paper having been an officer in the K.S.L.I. The line was just hardening after the Second Battle of Ypres when the Division moved up to the Salient, and no active operations took place on the actual front taken over by the Division."

ARGRAVE, Private, ALBERT GEORGE, G/3993, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 25 September 1915. Aged 20.

Born and resided St. Peter's Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of G. P. and E. E. Argrave of 56, St. Peter's Street, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.

Grave Ref. III. D. 2.

Commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

Apart from divisional artillery operations being carried out on the days leading up to and including the day that Albert was killed in action, the 12th (Eastern) Division to which his battalion belonged had not been actively engaged on any operations of note. At the time of his death, which was the only one in the 6th (Service) Battalion on 25 September 1915, the whole of the 12th (Eastern) Division, as part of the British Second Army was holding the line to the east and north of the town of Armentières. On the night of 24/25 September, bundles of damp straw were thrown over the trench parapets along most of the British front, and at 0550 hours on 25 September with the prevailing wind blowing in a favourable direction the straw bundles were lit, forming a very effective smoke screen. As had been intended the smoke screen produced by the damp smouldering straw prevented the enemy in the area from observing any movements, with the added psychological bonus of causing apprehension as to the likelihood of an imminent British attack. Throughout the remainder of the day, the pretence of an impending assault on the

German positions was maintained along the portion of the British front that was held by the 12th (Eastern) Division. Doubtless the divisions' soldiers were both surprised and delighted at the lack of retaliation shown by the opposition, which was amplified with the apparent lack of enthusiasm in response to the bombing parties as they went about their deadly business after dusk. It would seem likely that in view of the well documented lack of response by the entrenched Germans throughout the duration of the day, Albert probably lost his life whilst a member of one of the battalions bombing parties after dusk.

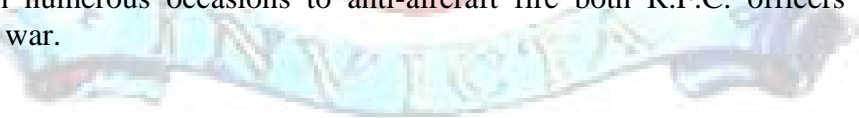
ARGRAVE, Lance Corporal, FREDERICK SIDNEY, G/124, 6th (Service) Battalion.
Died 3 May 1917.

Born St Alphage, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed,

they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B. Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance," also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant's Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a "Buff," we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram M.C. later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C. Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both R.F.C. officers thankfully survived the war.



ARMAN, Lance Corporal, CHARLES, G/539, 7th (Service) Battalion.
Died 22 November 1916.

Born St. Dunstan's, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

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

Grave Ref. O. II. S. 10.

Probably as the result of the 'slip of a pen' many years ago back in the days of the then IWGC, Charles is erroneously commemorated by the CWGC as belonging to the non-existent 17th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) when he died. It came as no surprise when making other non CWGC basic checks to find that Charles died of wounds whilst serving in the 7th (Service) Battalion of the regiment, he being amongst the three members of the battalion who succumbed to their woundings on 22 November 1916. Unfortunately due primarily to the fact that they were wounded, it has not been possible add here with any degree of certainty where, when or how the three were mortally wounded.

ARMITAGE, Serjeant, WALTER EDWARD, G/14597, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 26 August 1918. Aged 29.

Born Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield, Yorkshire. Enlisted and resided Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

Son of Mary Elizabeth Roebuck (formerly Armitage) of 15, Cross Street, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, and the late Charles Armitage of Skelmanthorpe, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

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

Grave Ref. VIII. H. 10.

Five of the six other ranks deaths in the 7th (Service) Battalion on 26 August 1918 were recorded by SDGW as having been killed in action, one of whom was Walter, who had not surprisingly formerly served on active service as Private, 38101, in the Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment). With real justification for stating same, a number of regimental historians and biographers, when writing about the allied advances and (usually senior) personnel who took part, or were involved in the planning of the operations of 1918 on the Western Front make similar references regarding the periodic rapid speed of the advance, when compared to the amount or distance of ground that was covered during earlier operational undertakings. Colonel Moody when making reference to both the 6th and 7th (Service) Battalion's of the regiment when fighting during the period that Walter fell, drawing attention to the fact that it was quite a revelation to the officers and other ranks in both battalion's who had been used to spending time in trenches, which was punctuated by the occasional raids or battles, during which either side of the combatants gained (or lost) two or three hundred yards or so. In stark contrast to the earlier engagements fought, during the period that Walter lost his life, the ground covered and the pace of the fighting was more akin to the engagements fought during the Second World War. On the night of 24/25 August Walter's battalion, as part of the 55th Brigade had relieved the 53rd Brigade of their division (18th (Eastern) Division), at the Somme village of Bécourt, and at 0230 hours on 25 August the division went on the offensive again, with the 7th (Service) Battalion in the 55th Brigade located on the left of the Buffs line of advance. During the pursuit of the enemy, surprisingly little opposition was encountered until reaching the village of Montauban where the German resistance and

resolve notably stiffened, with the enemy rearguard engaging the advancing Buffs with a not insignificant number of machine guns, thankfully despite the involvement of the German machine guns, none of the members in the battalion were killed on the day, but a number were wounded who possibly succumbed to same on another day. In spite of the stands that had been made by the enemy rearguard combined with very wet weather, by nightfall the battalion had reached the western edge of Mametz Wood having covered approximately a mile and a half, and was in touch with other advancing troops that were situated on both the left and right flank of the battalion. Having been postponed due to the weather that prevailed on 25 August, at daylight on the day that Walter fell, "B" Company commanded by Captain Arthur J. Whitmarsh who was a former member of both the Royal Scots, and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was sent forward to continue the advance on the left of a ravine. "B" and "C" Companies were on the right of this with "D" Company being held in reserve. Various data consulted reveals that by unfortunately by 26 August 1918 the enemy's resistance had become even more stubborn. The ground east of Montauban was very suitable for machine gun rear guards, and each position had to be located before they could be flanked and then rushed from the front. Captain Whitmarsh, with "A" Company of the battalion located on his left flank, which had kept pace with the advancing 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, took his own men on with great steadiness and skill, and at about 1515 hours assaulted Montauban taking about 60 enemy prisoners and killing the remainder of the garrison. He was greatly aided by machine gun fire brought to bear from the flanks to the north of him. He was later awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his work that day. Before nightfall the Buffs were east of Montauban, with Bernafay Wood in front of them which was full of enemy troops, and by which time "B" and "C" Companies had captured 50 prisoners and 4 machine guns. A number of German counter attacks that were launched were all successfully repelled during the evening of the day that Walter died.

ARMSTRONG, Private, ALGERNON CYRIL, G/21037, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 10 August 1917.

Born Biddenham, Bedfordshire. Enlisted Bedford, Bedfordshire. Resided Ford End, Bedfordshire.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, also commemorated on the Biddenham, Bedfordshire civic war memorial.

After the 8th (Service) Battalion had been rested for a few days at Dickebusch (now Dikkebusch), Second Lieutenant J. Geoffrey N. Lowles and 47 other ranks of "B" Company set off at 0435 hours on 10 August 1917, having been detailed to capture an enemy held position called 'Lower Post,' in compliance with orders that had been received by the battalion. Fifty minutes prior to zero hour the party had formed up, but during that time they had been shelled by the Germans very heavily. In response to the enemy shelling the supporting artillery responded, and three minutes after the initial retaliatory exchange of fire the barrage was lifted by the majority of the guns involved. One of the artillery batteries continued to fire for an additional one and a half minutes which resulted in no less than 12 casualties amongst Second Lieutenant Lowles party, and not surprisingly had also caused confusion. Despite the setbacks imposed on them by both friend and foe, the much depleted party still complied with the orders given, but resultant of the offending artillery battery the ensconced Germans were warned and well

prepared for an imminent attack. Having left their dug-outs prior to the assault mounted by Second Lieutenant Lowles, the enemy soldiers took little time in firing on the small band of Buffs, Second Lieutenant Lowles and nearly all of his N.C.O.'s in the party became casualties which had including three of the N.C.O.'s being killed. The exception amongst the N.C.O.'s was a Lance Corporal Simpson, who without hesitation immediately commenced firing his Lewis gun and ordered his men to charge the enemy. Almost immediately after the resolute Lance Corporal had commenced firing his Lewis gun it jammed, and the defending Germans drove back the much depleted party of attackers, using stick bombs in addition to small arms fire. In addition to the deaths of the three of the N.C.O.'s too which reference has briefly already been made, an additional eleven other ranks were killed in action, and another three members of the 8th (Service) Battalion died of wounds on 10 August 1917. It is of course possible that amongst those lost, a man or men could have lost their lives due to 'friendly fire,' as the result of an error lasting just a mere ninety seconds.

ARMSTRONG, Private, BYRON, G/12803, 1st Battalion.

Died 30 March 1917.

Born Kilburn, Middlesex. Enlisted Marylebone, Middlesex. Resided St. John's Wood, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

Formerly Private, 6851, 6th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Royal Sussex Regiment.

On 18 March 1917 an enemy raid was carried out on trenches in the area of Loos-en-Gohelle, Pas de Calais which were occupied by the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Casualties amongst the assaulting Germans, and the defending Buffs were fairly even, as at least 7 enemy soldiers fell. An officer, 30 year old Second Lieutenant Harold M. Norsworthy, and 10 members of the 1st Battalion also died, in addition to which Second Lieutenant Hughes, and 24 other ranks were wounded, plus eight missing. Although the German soldiers gained a footing at the trenches during the attack, eventually they were driven out. Colonel Moody in his book of the regiments' history during the Great War, wrote the following, "This raid seemed to have had the effect of raising and fostering a very firm determination on the part of the Buffs to get a bit of their own back." Led by Captain Bernard L. Strauss, what was in effect a retaliatory raid in response to the German raid on 18 March 1917, was carried out on Friday 30 March 1917. Second Lieutenant's Brown, P.W.D. Davis and Griffith were the other officers who took part on the raid along with a hundred other ranks of the battalion. German front line, and supporting works were attacked, with a number of enemy dug-outs being blown up. On the return leg of the successful days work, a number of enemy prisoners and many 'trophies' accompanied the Buffs. 22 year old Second Lieutenant, Percy P.W.D. Davis, from Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was initially posted as missing, but was later confirmed as having been killed in action, and at least 11 other ranks deaths in the 1st Battalion occurred on Friday 30 March 1917. In addition to those who fell, Second Lieutenant Griffith, and at least 29 other ranks were wounded during the raid. Captain Bernard L. Strauss was later promoted to the rank of Major, and awarded the Military Cross, but sadly he too fell on 1 December 1917, aged 25, and is at rest at Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel Le Grand, Somme.

ARNELL, Private, **LEONARD WILLIAM**, L/7007, 2nd Battalion.

Died 28 September 1915.

Born St. Pancras, Chichester, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Chichester, Sussex.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

It was noticed that two casualties of the Great War with the surname Arnell are commemorated on the Chichester, Sussex civic war memorial, but not regrettably not Leonard. Having already suffered heavy casualties during the Second Battle of Ypres, commanded by 41 year old Boer War veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Claude A. Worthington, the 2nd Battalion travelled from Bailleul to the devastated village of Vermelles, where it arrived at 1300 hours on 27 September 1915, as part of the 28th Division to take part in the Battle of Loos 1915 (25 September-19 October 1915). With the benefit of hindsight many regrettably costly errors can be seen appertaining to the Battle of Loos. When compared to the actions that had been fought by the British army during the spring of the same year, Loos was a much larger undertaking, which was carried out by six divisions, and as such was justifiably referred to as "The Big Push." The battle was fought over ground that was not the choice of the British, and at a time prior to the required stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery being available in sufficient quantities for the undertaking. Having rallied international sympathy, following the German's use of poison gas for the first time in April 1915, the opening of the battle was noteworthy as being the first occasion that poison gas was used by the British Army. General Douglas Haig had issued orders for the release of the gas, and an artillery bombardment, at 0550 hours on 25 September 1915 with the main infantry attack timed to commence forty minutes later. Despite incurring heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day, in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. Unfortunately the infantry reserves had been held to far back from the battle front, to be able to exploit the costly successes that had been achieved, which resulted in the succeeding days being bogged down into attritional warfare for comparitively only minor gains. At a stage and location which during the battle was described by the Commander-in-Chief as being "distinctly precarious," Major (later Lieutenant Colonel D.S.O.) Miles Beevor, was ordered to lead "A" and "D" Companies to relieve parties to the north of a location named 'Fosse 8' which was a coal mine with a huge slag dump, and located to the south of the village of Auchy-les-Mines. The German defenses at 'Fosse 8' had included the formidable Hohenzollern Redoubt. On reaching the allotted position, the officers and other ranks of "A" and "D" Companies were probably surprised to find that it had been already abandoned. Commanding the 85th Brigade, 28th Division to which the 2nd Battalion belonged, was former Brigade of Guards officer, Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, (later Major-General Sir C.E. Pereira, K.C.B., C.M.G.), who had accompanied them, and he ordered Major Beevor's companies to establish themselves in the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Due to the congestion which prevailed at that time in the communication trench, the decision was taken to cross above ground, to comply with the Brigadier-General's fresh orders, and attempt to reach their fresh location and assault the enemy at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Several casualties occurred during the hazardous overland route as the soldiers were subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling. Included amongst those wounded was Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, and his Brigade-Major, who was Captain Flower, and Lieutenant Geoffrey Cory-

Wright commanding "D" Company, who later served in the Royal Flying Corps and R.A.F. Once at the enemy position, a platoon of "D" Company charged the Germans and killed about twenty of their number. Throughout the night the soldiers of "A" and "D" Companies remained at the new position, during which time bombing parties were particularly active, and the evacuation of the wounded was carried out under difficult circumstances, due to the heavy rain, conditions underfoot and the distance they had to be carried by tired men. The remainder of the 85th Brigade also came up under the cover of darkness, and "B" and "C" Companies of the 2nd Battalion moved into positions located to the rear of "A" and "D" Companies.

ARNOLD, Lance Corporal, CHARLES, G/5863, 2nd Battalion.

Died 8 February 1916. Aged 34.

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

Husband of Emily Arnold of 52, Straitsmouth, Greenwich, London.

Buried Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Thessalonika, Greece. Grave Ref. 79.

Charles was the only member of his battalion to die on 8 February 1916. SDGW records his death as having 'Died,' as opposed to killed in action or died of wounds.

ARNOLD, Private, EDWARD DANIEL, G/8585, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 28 April 1918. Aged 26.

Born St. John's, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Husband of Susan Harriet Arnold of 11, Northdown Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Tournai, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Ref. II. B. 7.

Commemorated on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.

Edward died whilst he was a prisoner of war.

ARNOLD, Private, ERNEST FREDERICK, G/20016, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 3 May 1917.

Born, enlisted and resided Plymouth, Devon.

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

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however

that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that "the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance," also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant's Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent

Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards, with the cruel irony of his death occurring within half a mile of Keeling Copse when gallantly defending a trench the Germans were attacking, although not strictly speaking a "Buff," we have included a commemoration to the brave 19 year old subaltern on this roll of honour alongside the 396 members of the regiment, who have no known grave that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, some of whom died with him. Second Lieutenant Cockeram M.C. later transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an Observer, on one occasion whilst a member of 48 Squadron based at Bertangles, he and his pilot Captain H.C. Sootheran flying a Bristol BF2b shot down an enemy aircraft, and despite numerous encounters with enemy aircraft and being subjected on numerous occasions to anti-aircraft fire both R.F.C. officers thankfully survived the war.

ARNOLD, Private, FREDERICK WILLIAM, G/1844.

"B" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 November 1916. Aged 27.

Born Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of Mrs. O. E. Hammond of 43, Belgrave Road, Portswood, Southampton.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it. Frederick is also commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

Although the day on which Frederick lost his life is recorded as the last day of "The Battle of the Somme 1916," as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig, in the case of the 7th Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, by days end over 60 had been killed most falling during an attack on a enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion's of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.

ARNOLD, Private, HENRY JOSEPH, G/4394, 2nd Battalion.

Died 27 September 1915.

Born and resided Ospringe, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15, and on the Ospringe, Faversham, Kent civic war memorial. On the latter he is shown with the Christian name Harry as opposed to Henry, as is the case with countless numbers of the fallen named Henry who are commemorated on various United Kingdom war memorials. Having already suffered heavy casualties during the Second Battle of Ypres, commanded by 41 year old Boer War veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Claude A. Worthington, the 2nd Battalion travelled from Bailleul to the devastated village of Vermelles, where it arrived at 1300 hours on 27 September 1915, as part of the 28th Division to take part in the Battle of Loos 1915 (25 September-19 October 1915). With the benefit of hindsight many regrettably costly errors can be seen appertaining to the Battle of Loos. When compared to the actions that had been fought by the British army during the spring of the same year, Loos was a much larger undertaking, which was carried out by six divisions, and as such was justifiably referred to as "The Big Push." The battle was fought over ground that was not the choice of the British and at a time prior to the required stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery being available in sufficient quantities for the undertaking. Having rallied international sympathy, following the German's use of poison gas for the first time in April 1915, the opening of the battle was noteworthy as being the first occasion that poison gas was used by the British Army. General Douglas Haig had issued orders for the release of the gas, and an artillery bombardment, at 0550 hours on 25 September 1915 with the main infantry attack timed to commence forty minutes later. Despite incurring heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day, in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. Unfortunately the infantry reserves had been held to far back from the battle front, to be able to exploit the costly successes that had been achieved, which resulted in the succeeding days being bogged down into attritional warfare for comparatively only minor gains. At a stage and location which during the battle was described by the Commander-in-Chief as being "distinctly precarious," Major (later Lieutenant Colonel D.S.O.) Miles Beevor, was ordered to lead "A" and "D" Companies to relieve parties to the north of a location named 'Fosse 8' which was a coal mine with a huge slag dump, and located to the south of the village of Auchy-les-Mines. The German defenses at 'Fosse 8' had included the formidable Hohenzollern Redoubt. On reaching the allotted position, the officers and other ranks of "A" and "D" Companies were probably surprised to find that it had been already abandoned. Commanding the 85th Brigade, 28th Division to which the 2nd Battalion belonged, was former Brigade of Guards officer, Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, (later Major-General Sir C.E. Pereira, K.C.B., C.M.G.), who had accompanied them, and he ordered Major Beevor's companies to establish themselves in the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Due to the congestion which prevailed at that time in the communication trench, the decision was taken to cross above ground, to comply with the Brigadier-General's fresh orders, and attempt to reach their fresh location and assault the enemy at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Several casualties occurred during the hazardous overland route as the soldiers were subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling. Included amongst those wounded was Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, and his Brigade-Major, who was Captain Flower, and Lieutenant Geoffrey Cory-Wright commanding "D" Company, who later

served in the Royal Flying Corps and R.A.F. Once at the enemy position, a platoon of "D" Company charged the Germans and killed about twenty of their number. Throughout the night the soldiers of "A" and "D" Companies remained at the new position, during which time bombing parties were particularly active, and the evacuation of the wounded was carried out under difficult circumstances, due to the heavy rain, conditions underfoot and the distance they had to be carried by tired men. The remainder of the 85th Brigade also came up under the cover of darkness, and "B" and "C" Companies of the 2nd Battalion moved into positions located to the rear of "A" and "D" Companies.

ARNOLD, Second Lieutenant, HUGO CHOLMONDELEY.

4th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died of wounds 12 June 1917. Aged 19.

Born Barrow Rectory, Chester, Cheshire 15 August 1897.

Eldest son of the Reverend Henry Abel Arnold, and Mrs. Mary Arnold (née Smyth) of Wolsingham Rectory, County Durham.

Buried Étaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. XVII. E. 22.

Commemorated on the Great War memorial panels on the cloister walls at Haileybury School, Hertfordshire. Initially educated at The Leas, Hoylake, Lancashire, Hugo continued his education at Haileybury School, Hertfordshire, where he was a pupil from 1911 until 1915. It had originally been Hugo's intention to follow in his father's footsteps by taking Holy Orders in the Church of England, but like so many young men of his generation the coming of the Great War curtailed his plans. Hugo enlisted in the army and served as Private, G/18188, in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), prior to being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the regiment on 23 November 1916. After being wounded, Hugo succumbed to same whilst a patient at the Military Hospital, located in the village of Camiers to the north of Étaples, Pas de Calais, France. Fortunately Hugo has an entry in the Roll of Honour 1914-18 by the Marquis de Ruvigny, which is quite comprehensive, including a letter quoted from his Commanding Officer which reads, "Shortly after he joined the battalion, I picked him out as being the most conscientious worker, and took him as my Intelligence Officer. He was of the greatest assistance to me during what I suppose will be known as the Battle of Messines, and his untiring energy surprised me on more than one occasion. On two occasions I literally had to order him to take some rest. His end was most unfortunate...This was a great shock to me. He was so bright and cheerful, and it was never too much trouble for him to do anything. In fact he seemed to take a pleasure in doing things for other people. If there was ever anything doing, he was always one of the first to volunteer. We all miss him very much." Hugo's Major also wrote a letter which reads, "He was one of the best officers we have ever had in the battalion, tremendously keen and very thorough in all he did, and worked very hard whenever we were in action...We are all very sorry to have lost him. He had a high sense of duty, and lived right up to it at all times. Men like him are difficult to replace." Étaples Military Cemetery where Hugo is at rest was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, and has the sad distinction of being the largest Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in France. It has 47 Great War casualties of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) buried in it.

ARNOLD, Lance Corporal, LAWRENCE WARRINGTON, G/6688.

"D" Company, 2nd Battalion.

Died 27 March 1917. Aged 21.

Born Clapham, Surrey. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of John and Clara Arnold of 37, Broadhinton Road, Clapham, London.

Buried Struma Military Cemetery, Kalokastron, Greece. Grave Ref. IX. C. 6.

SDGW entry for Lawrence records him as having died of wounds, and as such it has unfortunately not been possible thus far to add at this brief commemoration where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

ARNOLD, Private, PERCY WILLIAM, G/12981, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 November 1916. Aged 21.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Faversham, Kent.

Nephew of F. Cory of 57, Chalkwell Road, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Buried Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. A. 50.

Although the day on which Percy lost his life is recorded as the last day of 'The Battle of the Somme 1916,' as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig, in the case of the 7th Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, by days end over 60 had been killed most falling during an attack on a enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina, from which the cemetery takes its name. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a Private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion's of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.

ARNOLD, Captain, VICTOR, 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 15 January 1917. Aged 29.

Youngest son of Mary A. Arnold of Nickle, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent, and the late Henry William Arnold.

Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 6, and on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

In late October 1914 the 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion as part of the Kent Brigade, Home Counties Division sailed from Southampton for India. The officers and other ranks that sailed had all volunteered for overseas service, with those that had remained in Kent forming the basis of the new 2nd/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion of the regiment. The reason for the move to India was to release regular soldiers that were stationed there to be moved to France. On arrival in Bombay, the Home Counties Division was broken up. Remaining in India until 26 July 1915, the 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion was then sent to serve in Aden, disembarking there on 4 August 1915, the reason for the move from India was after Turkish forces had entered the Aden Protectorate on 2 July 1915. Following active service in Aden, the battalion then returned to India in February 1916 where it garrisoned the town of Bareilly, a major roadways and railways center. In addition to the duties spent at and around Bareilly on the Ramganga River, the 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion also had personnel sent to the northwest frontier, and some 500 officers and other ranks sent to the Mesopotamian war theatre to boost the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, one of whom was Victor. On 11 January the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion went into trenches on the Hai bridgehead on the river Tigris in accordance with a diversionary plan too assist other troops that were engaged in heavy fighting whilst attempting a location named Khadaira Bend. On the first day of the trench occupancy, four other ranks were killed and a similar number wounded. The following day the position held by the battalion was strengthened, and Second Lieutenant Hook was able to undertake a reconnaissance to the front of the position held by the battalion, his findings resulted in the establishment of an advanced post being established, which was then occupied by a platoon commanded by Second Lieutenant (later Captain) W.G. H. Filmer. On the same day that Victor was killed, two attempts were made by Second Lieutenant Thomas Angus to reach another point but to no avail. Mention should be made that the bulk of the 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion remained in India until well after the cessation of hostilities in the European war theatre, and did not arrive back in the United Kingdom at Devonport until November 1919.

ARNOTT, Private, HARRISON WOODROW, G/13717.

"D" Company, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 3 May 1917. Aged 24.

Born and resided Gorleston-on-Sea, Norfolk. Enlisted Marsh, Lincolnshire.

Son of Henry Dudley Arnott and Christiana Ellen Arnott of 'Westcroft,' Park Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Suffolk.

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

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the 'Third Battle of the Scarpe', the 6th Battalion suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had

been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant's Seago and Sowter were sent for from the detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant's P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldiery surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant's John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant's Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant's Charles Warrington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant's K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant's Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant's Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the

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

ARSCOTT, Private, WILLIAM CHARLES, G/12983, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Killed in action 18 November 1916. Aged 28.

Born and resided Hastings, Sussex. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent.

Son of George and Charlotte Arscott of 12, North Holmes Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. A. 52.

Formerly, Private, Royal East Kent Yeomanry.

Although the day on which William lost his life is recorded as the last day of ‘The Battle of the Somme 1916,’ as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig, in the case of the 7th Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, by days end over 60 had been killed most falling during an attack on a enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina, from which the cemetery takes its name. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a Private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion’s of the brigade’s allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire

Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.

ARTER, Serjeant, HAROLD, T/242995, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 24 February 1917.

Born and resided Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Wingham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref. XXIX. B. 105/116.

Harold was killed in action on 24 February 1917 at Shumian Bed, during the advance on Kut-el-Amara. The Turkish forces that were engaged in the battle during their attempt to retain the Shumran Peninsular on the day that Harold fell fought hard. Despite the stoic resistance encountered by the troops fighting the Turks, eventually they were forced to make a fighting withdrawal from the peninsular, due in no small measure to the fact that officers and other ranks of the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, and the other units also fought with courage and tenaciousness. A network of nullahs provided the retreating Ottoman troops with both good cover, and also excellent concealment for machine guns, which were exploited in full. During the offensive operation on 24 February 1917, the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion was in support of the 67th Punjabis who became held up on the left of the attack, but eventually made progress with the Buffs, but were both stopped approximately three hundred yards from a nullah which was being strongly and tenaciously held by the enemy. To the right of the Buffs, the Gurkhas also attacked but they too stopped, and an attempted flanking movement was spotted by the Turks and also failed. Probably due to the real danger of high casualty rates becoming a real possibility if further futile attempts continued to be made in daylight, it was as soon as it was dark at approximately 2100 hours patrols went out which then reported back that the Turks had evacuated the nullah and surrounding area. By the end of the day 13 other ranks had been killed in action, one of whom was Harold, and Lieutenant (later Captain) Cecil Howell and thirty four other ranks had been wounded.

ASHBY, Private, ALFRED HORACE, L/6859, 1st Battalion.

Died 23 October 1914. Aged 29.

Born Erith, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Belvedere, Kent.

Husband of Ethel Maud Ashby of 150, Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent.

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

The following is a short extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "On the morning of the 20th October the Germans attacked very heavily on the whole front. Fighting on a very extended front (five miles) and with very little in hand, the Division was soon in difficulties, particularly on the exposed left flank, where the Leinsters had their three left companies quickly driven in, and the situation at midday was critical. One company with the machine-guns was able to hold on until the afternoon at Mont de Prêmesques, and to withdraw under cover of darkness, having inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. Meanwhile

units of other brigades were putting up a gallant fight against great odds, each unit generally with one or both flanks unsupported. At Ennetières, which formed rather a salient, the Sherwood Foresters held out all day, but were attacked at dusk by three battalions and practically annihilated or captured, only the CO., Adjutant, Q.M. and 250 other ranks remaining the next day. The Buffs, after a splendid fight, were driven out of Radinghem, and by night the Division was practically back on the line which it was to hold for the next few months, and on which the German offensive of 1918 still found the British. Continuous unsuccessful attempts to break through occurred till 31st October, when trench warfare set in. Notable among these was the attack on the K.S.L.I. and Y. and L. on the 23rd October, when 300 enemy dead were left in front of our trenches; on the 18th Infantry Brigade on the night of the 27/28th October, when the enemy captured the line, but was driven out by a counter-attack, in which the East Yorks specially distinguished themselves; and on the night of the 29/30th October, when the 19th Infantry Brigade lost some trenches, but counter-attacked successfully, and counted 200 German dead. The incident of Cpl. Forward, 1st The Buffs, is typical of the fierce fighting. On 30th October, when the O.C. machine-guns of The Buffs and all the team had been killed or wounded, this gallant N.C.O. continued to fire his gun until eventually wounded in five places, when he crawled back to report the situation. He was rewarded with the D.C.M. During the whole period, 20th to 30th October, the guns were woefully short of ammunition, and consequently a greater strain was thrown on the infantry." The engagement briefly touched on above by Major-General Marden, that was fought by the 1st Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, and the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment on was ultimately hand to hand fighting, with a high proportion of enemy casualties being bayoneted whilst attempting to defend their trenches. Also on 23 October 1914, a gap developed to the east of Le Bridoux which was the result of some of the trenches being lost and others being held. To help establish what the actual situation was at the Le Bridoux trenches, a platoon of the 1st Battalion led by Lieutenant George R. Thornhill under the direction of Major W.F. Clemson (later Brigadier-General C.M.G., D.S.O., 24th Infantry Brigade), of the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment were sent forward to investigate, leaving from the Touquet-La Boutillerie road by some dongas running south. No doubt with trepidation when approaching one end of the trenches, it appeared to Lieutenant Thornhill and his men that the enemy had vacated the gap which had caused the confusion. Seizing the opportunity to occupy the former German trenches, Lieutenant Thornhill and the men he led rushed towards the trench to secure it, but were mown down by a well concealed enemy machine gun. Of necessity due to circumstances which had prevailed, George Thornhill and several other ranks who had actually got into the trench had to left behind when the ten members of the platoon who were able so to do made the return journey, bringing with them seven of their wounded comrades. Noted amongst the other acts of gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Thornhill's men on 23 October 1914 was the heroism of Private Pearce, who at great risk to himself successfully managed to drag Private Bull in to safety, but sadly was unable to reach George Thornhill who was awarded the Military Cross.

ASHBY, Private, EDWARD JAMES, G/358, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 11 July 1915. Aged 22.

Born, enlisted and resided Erith, Kent.

Son of Horace and Emma Ashby of 7, Glendale Road, Erith, Kent.

Buried Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.
Grave Ref. III. A. 3.

Edward has the unfortunate distinction of being the sole member of the 6th (Service) Battalion to die on 11 July 1915, during a period of thankfully low casualties whilst his battalion was in the Armentières sector of the front. The relevant SDGW entry for Edward records him as having been killed in action.

ASHBY, Private, HERBERT EDWARD, G/15538, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 17 November 1916. Aged 21.

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

Son of Frederick Richard and Annie Maria Ashby of 44, Perry Street, Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. B. 54.

Formerly Private, 2306, 2/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion.

With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently was in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozières and Thiepval on the D73. Ultimately somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Second Lieutenant Ivan H. Hess, who lies in Regina Trench Cemetery, and Lance Corporal John Petty who is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, and Herbert Ashby, plus six other ranks wounded.

ASHBY, Private, SIDNEY JOHN, G/5547, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 21 March 1918. Aged 23.

Born Whitstable, Kent. Enlisted Deptford, Kent. Resided Catford, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Rose Ellen Ashby of 54, Perry Hill, Catford, London.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 16.

The Pozières Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave, and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names, The Durham Light Infantry with approximately 600 names, the Machine Gun Corps with over 500, The Manchester Regiment with approximately 500 and The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery with over 400 names. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) fallen that are commemorated on the memorial number 112, and are all named on Panel 16. On the day of Sidney's death, the part played by his battalion, it being the first day of the 1918 German Spring Offensive, was not only heroic but quite literally lifesaving. As the numerically superior German army pressed home their attacks, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was the only unit of the British 3rd Corps that held its ground in the forward zone of the battle area when it was attacked north of Travecy. In making the determined

stand in the face of overwhelming odds, it enabled other units in the area to successfully fall back, regroup and reorganize behind the more easily defensible positions behind the Crozat Canal near Vendeuil to the south of Saint-Quentin. On 21 March 1917 the battalion was defending a front of almost five miles in conjunction with two other 18th (Eastern) Division infantry battalions, namely the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. As the day wore on the Germans captured Vendeuil, but the soldiers garrisoning the old French fort to the west of Vendeuil managed to hold on to their position, the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) tenaciously held on to the village of Moy, until an enemy breakthrough to the north. Some units managed to fight on until about 1630 hours, with the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment Berks holding Alaincourt. Unfortunately the supporting Divisional Field Artillery was overrun in the fog, and captured as German Storm Troopers managed to slip past the defended posts.

ASHDOWN, Private, ALFRED JAMES, T/240581, 5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.
Died 9 March 1917.

Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent.

Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 6, and

The 1918 Absent Voters List shows four other soldiers with their home address recorded as being Alfred's former home at Ashenden Cottages, Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent. Probably all four of the following were brothers of Alfred, they being:-

Private, 202186, Frederick George ASHDOWN. 13th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Private, 240775, Horace Edward ASHDOWN. 4th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Private, 22289, John Albert ASHDOWN. Army Veterinary Corps.

Driver, T/4232195, William Ernest ASHDOWN. Army Service Corps.

Alfred was one of seven members of his battalion that are recorded in/on SDGW as having died on 9 March 1917, five of whom are shown as having been killed in action, one being Alfred. On the night of 7/8 March 1917, the 5th (Territorial Force) Battalion along with the rest of the 35th Indian Brigade had marched to the village of Bawi on the river Tigris, which was reached on the morning of 8 March. Crossing the river proved to be very difficult for the river boats and barges used, due mainly to the fact that a suitable landing place was a mile or so downstream, but the worst problem was the unsuitability of the barges that were difficult to load, the difficulties resulted in some of the required equipment being left behind, including the first line transport. The force which made the crossing was under the command of Lieutenant-General William Raine Marshall, and was ferried across the Tigris, in order to enfilade the Turkish position with its guns from the right bank of the river. On 8 March a bridge was constructed across the Tigris, half a mile below Bawi, and the cavalry, followed by a portion of the force commanded by Lieutenant-General Alexander Stanhope Cobbe V.C., K.C.B., D.S.O., crossed to the right bank in order to drive the enemy from positions which British aircraft reported that the Turks had occupied about Shawa Khan, and northwest of there, covering Baghdad from the south and southwest. During the night of the 8/9 March after an intense bombardment of the opposite bank, an attempt was made to ferry troops across the river Diala from four separate points. The main enterprise achieved a qualified success, the most northern

ferry being able to work for nearly an hour before it was stopped by very deadly rifle and machine-gun fire, and a small post was established on the right bank of the river. The advance of the British and Empire troops was much impeded by numerous ditches and water cuts, which had to be ramped to render them passable. During the morning of the day that Alfred was killed, Shawa Khan was occupied without much opposition, and aircraft reported another position one and a half miles to the northwest, and some six miles south of Baghdad, as strongly held.

ASHDOWN, Lance Corporal, GEORGE, G/6798, 2nd Battalion.

Died 28 September 1915.

Born and enlisted Camberwell, Surrey. Resided Peckham, Surrey.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

Having already suffered heavy casualties during the Second Battle of Ypres, commanded by 41 year old Boer War veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Claude A. Worthington, the 2nd Battalion travelled from Bailleul to the devastated village of Vermelles, where it arrived at 1300 hours on 27 September 1915, as part of the 28th Division to take part in the Battle of Loos 1915 (25 September-19 October 1915). With the benefit of hindsight many regrettably costly errors can be seen appertaining to the Battle of Loos. When compared to the actions that had been fought by the British army during the spring of the same year, Loos was a much larger undertaking, which was carried out by six divisions, and as such was justifiably referred to as "The Big Push." The battle was fought over ground that was not the choice of the British, and at a time prior to the required stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery being available in sufficient quantities for the undertaking. Having rallied international sympathy, following the German's use of poison gas for the first time in April 1915, the opening of the battle was noteworthy as being the first occasion that poison gas was used by the British Army. General Douglas Haig had issued orders for the release of the gas, and an artillery bombardment, at 0550 hours on 25 September 1915 with the main infantry attack timed to commence forty minutes later. Despite incurring heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day, in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. Unfortunately the infantry reserves had been held to far back from the battle front, to be able to exploit the costly successes that had been achieved, which resulted in the succeeding days being bogged down into attritional warfare for comparatively only minor gains. At a stage and location which during the battle was described by the Commander-in-Chief as being "distinctly precarious," Major (later Lieutenant Colonel D.S.O.) Miles Beevor, was ordered to lead "A" and "D" Companies to relieve parties to the north of a location named 'Fosse 8' which was a coal mine with a huge slag dump, and located to the south of the village of Auchy-les-Mines. The German defenses at 'Fosse 8' had included the formidable Hohenzollern Redoubt. On reaching the allotted position, the officers and other ranks of "A" and "D" Companies were probably surprised to find that it had been already abandoned. Commanding the 85th Brigade, 28th Division to which the 2nd Battalion belonged, was former Brigade of Guards officer, Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, (later Major-General Sir C.E. Pereira, K.C.B., C.M.G.), who had accompanied them, and he ordered Major Beevor's companies to establish themselves in the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Due to the congestion which prevailed at that time in the communication trench, the decision was taken to cross above ground, to comply with the Brigadier-General's fresh

orders, and attempt to reach their fresh location and assault the enemy at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Several casualties occurred during the hazardous overland route as the soldiers were subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling. Included amongst those wounded was Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, and his Brigade-Major, who was Captain Flower, and Lieutenant Geoffrey Cory-Wright commanding "D" Company, who later served in the Royal Flying Corps and R.A.F. Once at the enemy position, a platoon of "D" Company charged the Germans and killed about twenty of their number. Throughout the night the soldiers of "A" and "D" Companies remained at the new position, during which time bombing parties were particularly active, and the evacuation of the wounded was carried out under difficult circumstances, due to the heavy rain, conditions underfoot and the distance they had to be carried by tired men. The remainder of the 85th Brigade also came up under the cover of darkness, and "B" and "C" Companies of the 2nd Battalion moved into positions located to the rear of "A" and "D" Companies.

ASHFORD, Lance Corporal, THOMAS WILFRED, G/946, 6th (Service) Battalion.
Died 16 October 1915.

Born Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Enlisted London. Resided Charlton, Kent.
Buried Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. I. G. 59.

Due to the fact that Thomas is recorded as having died of wounds, and as his death certificate or any other relevant supporting information has not been sighted, it has regrettably not been possible to add any details appertaining to his demise regarding where, when or how he was mortally wounded, at the time of adding the brief commemoration to Thomas here.

ASHFORTH, Private, DOUGLAS, G/4209, 7th Battalion.
Died 18 November 1916.

Born St. John's, Blackpool, Lancashire. Enlisted and resided Blackpool, Lancashire.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it.
Although the day on which Douglas lost his life is recorded as the last day of 'The Battle of the Somme 1916,' as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig, in the case of the 7th Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, by days end over 60 had been killed most falling during an attack on an enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalions of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th

Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.



CHARLES ASHMAN

ASHMAN, CHARLES WILLIAM. Private, G/5072. 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 15 June 1917 Aged 35.

Son of the late Edmund and Charlotte Ashman (née Boorman) of Dover, Kent.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Buried Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: III. C. 42.

Commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and on the St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

At the time of the 1881 census the Ashman family was residing at 1 Dour Cottages, Charlton, Dover, Kent. Edmund Ashman, Charles's father who was a Cordwainer was the Head of the House.

EDMUND G. ASHMAN.	Aged 35.	Born Singledge, Kent.
CHARLOTTE ASHMAN.	Aged 34.	Born Dover, Kent.
EDMUND T.B. ASHMAN.	Aged 7.	Born Dover, Kent.
EDWARD G. ASHMAN.	Aged 4.	Born Dover, Kent.
JOHN M. ASHMAN.	Aged 2.	Born Dover, Kent.
CHARLES W. ASHMAN.	Aged 5 months.	Born Charlton, Dover, Kent.

In June 1917 during the 'Battle of Messines,' Charles's battalion took over frontline trenches near a position named The Bluff, which was close to Hill 60 near Hollebeke, Belgium. Whilst ensconced in the new position, an attack involving the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was arranged to be carried out on 14 June. The battalion given the objective of capturing high ground to the east of The Bluff, this high ground is in fact soil heaped there when the Ypres-Comines Canal was cut. It appears on trench maps (The Bluff/Hill 60 Sector) as merely Spoil Bank, it being just down from Triangular Dump, Battle Wood where the battalion had relieved the 18th Battalion, London Regiment and the 3rd Battalion, Rifle Brigade. With zero hour set for 1930 hours, it was planned that Charles's battalion would take one side of the railway line and soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) would take the opposite side. Prior to the commencement of the attack, a certain amount of sniping took

place as the battalions moved forward to the assembly positions, fortunately and somewhat surprisingly there was no intervention by German artillery at that time. 'A' and 'C' Companies led the advance behind an artillery barrage, the range of which was altered by a hundred yards every four minutes. Six minutes after the first British artillery had commenced firing, their opposite number shelled the assembly positions but fortunately to no avail as thankfully by that time the area had been cleared of the assaulting troops. Nine men of Charles's battalion fell on 14 June during the attack, and amongst the officer casualties was the loss of the Artist, Ernest Carlos who was serving as a Second Lieutenant in the battalion. On the day Charles died another thirteen other ranks fell, with another four on 16 June when being relieved at night by the 2nd Battalion, Leinster Regiment. In remembrance of the 'Buffs' fallen, later trench maps and various other official documentation when making reference or showing the position where Charles and so many of his comrades died or were wounded, call the location 'Buffs Bank.' The fact of which we have drawn attention to in the past, as in view of the number of regimental memorials and similar which populate the entire length of the former Western Front battlefields, combined with the proliferation of interest over the last few years, and the 'benefits'? generated by the tourist spin off, perhaps a memorial to those who fell at 'Buffs Bank' would not now be inappropriate. It should be noted that in view of the location of Charles's place of burial in relation to 'Buffs Bank' it would appear that he had probably been wounded on an earlier occasion and succumbed to same on the day he died. The New Military Cemetery was begun in February 1915 and was used until May 1917 by fighting units and field ambulances, with a few further burials taking place in March and April 1918. The cemetery extension where Charles is at rest was used from May 1917 to January 1918. For more details appertaining to Charles, please see the excellent Dover, Kent website www.doverwarmemorialproject.org.uk

ASHMAN, Private, FRANK RICHARD, G/426, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 13 October 1915.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Nonington, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15, also on the Nonington, Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its

soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and then made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included Frank's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by Frank's battalion on 13 October 1915

which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

ASHPOLE, Private, HERBERT WILLIAM, G/25950.

“C” Company, 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion.

Killed in action at Wavrin on Monday 7 October 1918. Aged 20.

Born and resided Felmersham, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire. Enlisted Bedford, Bedfordshire.

Son of William and Clara Ashpole of Pavenham Road, Felmersham, Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire.

Buried Aubers Ridge British Cemetery, Aubers, Nord, France. Grave Ref. IV. E. 7.

Commemorated on the Felmersham and Radwell, Bedfordshire civic war memorial, and on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Mary Felmersham, Bedfordshire. Herbert had been amongst the officers and other ranks which had joined “C” Company after 1 March 1917, unlike most other ranks serving in the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, who had a ‘T’ prefix on their regimental number which was indicative of being in the Territorial Force, Herbert had a ‘G’ prefix indicative of belonging (in his case) to one of the Home Counties “New Army” Battalions, as such possibly he had not served in the battalion long prior to his death. Unlike a lot of 10th Battalion personnel who had served in other war theatres, notably with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, it would appear that all of Herbert’s war service had been on the Western Front.

ASHWORTH, Private, RICHARD, S/441, 2nd Battalion.

Died 24 May 1915. Aged 44.

Born, enlisted and resided Rochdale, Lancashire.

Son of Squire and Violet Ashworth.

Husband of Mary E. Lofthouse (formerly Ashworth) of 19, Wilson Street, Rochdale, Lancashire.

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

With good reason, several people who do not have more than a passing interest in military history and/or the Great War, when asked what do they know about the ‘Second Battle of Ypres,’ (22 April-25 May 1915) either know nothing, whilst those who do at least know something, invariably make mention of the first use of poisonous gas during the war. Other people (usually secondary school children) sometimes add assorted valid comments, a number of which are clearly the result of studies and sometimes based on research. One consistent theme however seems to be that most events referred to if at all, are events which took place during the earlier phases of the overall battle. In the closing stages of the overall battle, the combatants on both sides were still fighting. Regarding the events effecting the 2nd Battalion, a portion of the book by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B., despite its well documented ‘errors’ has been added here, it being on this occasion probably the best accessed. “At 2.45 a.m. on the 24th May the Germans attacked as a final effort the whole front from Wieltje to the Menin road. This began with gas for four and a half hours and a very heavy bombardment with gas shells, combined with “Flammenwerfen,” a terrible implement for ejecting liquid fire, new at the time. Then the enemy advanced in very heavy masses and gained the snipers line, but was repulsed in

each attempt to get further. Two companies of the 8th Middlesex and one company East Surrey immediately north of the railway gave way in consequence of the gas. There was cavalry on the right of the 85th Brigade and these were at the same time heavily attacked, so that the O.C. Buffs, which was the right battalion of the G.H.Q. line, was asked to help. The message came at 4.30 a.m. and was from Captain Court, 9th Lancers, who said his men were "on their knees," but holding out. Captain Barnard with A Company followed by half of C, under Lieut. Swayne, at once started for the rescue to reinforce the trenches north and south of the Menin road, and thus on this day the Buffs fought in two separate parties. At 6.30 orders came to reinforce the 3rd Fusiliers, who meant to retake their lost trench, and B Company, with the remaining half of C, went up, leaving for the present D Company in the G.H.Q. line. Directly it left the reserve line this party came under very heavy shell fire and lost badly. Major Johnson of the Fusiliers, however, organised his counter-stroke, but it was beaten off, he himself being wounded, Lieut. D.W. Hammond of the Buffs killed and many men of both regiments lost. The enemy appeared to be in great strength, so the remainder of the Buffs were ordered up to assist the Royal Fusiliers at a level crossing on the railway, but at this time the enemy's shell fire was terrific and the crossing became merely a death trap. However, about 1 p.m. D Company issued from the G.H.Q. lines and tried to come on, though it was impossibility. It was a terrible undertaking and only about thirty men, under Lieut. Mantle, managed the journey. The situation was most critical as the enemy were working round the right. About 5 p.m. a counter-attack by the 84th Brigade, though held up, relieved matters somewhat. At nightfall the attack was continued by 84th and 80th Brigades, but was not successful owing to the terrific rifle and machine-gun fire directed upon it by the enemy. There were many casualties. Numbers of Cheshire, Welsh, K.S.L.I. and other regiments retired into the road cutting held by the Buffs and 3rd Royal Fusiliers." For a period of three days, until the night of 26/27 May, the officers and other ranks of "A" Company, and half of "C" Company led by Captain W.G.F Barnard (later Lieutenant Colonel D.S.O.), mentioned above, managed to inflict casualties amongst the enemy whilst stoically maintaining its position at Hooge. Whilst in the trenches, some of which were knee deep in water, Captain Barnard's party was subjected to continuous fire from German artillery, snipers and large trench mortars, with no rations able to be taken to them for virtually the duration of the time spent under fire. On the day after Richard lost his life, a lot of it was spent by his battalion collecting and reorganising the remnants of "B," "C" and "D" Companies, a task that was made far harder due to the not insignificant number of stragglers from other regiments and corps that had become attached to the battalion. Although enemy activity eased during the day. Captain Barnard referred to above, later served in the Machine Gun Corps and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, thankfully he survived the Great War, and was for a number of years a prominent and active member of the Royal African Society, which was founded in 1901 to commemorate and continue the work of Mary Kingsley (1862-1901), an extensive traveller of the continent, and a writer and scientist on the study of Africa. Lieutenant Stephen Cormack Swayne referred to above, was born in Simla, India on 24 May 1884, and served in the 3rd Battalion of the regiment as a Lieutenant from 1902 to 1905. A son of Major-General J.D. Swayne, prior to the Great War Stephen emigrated to Canada and became a Rancher. On 26 September 1914 he enlisted in the Canadian Infantry at Valcartier, Quebec, Canada, and served as Private, 19610, until being commissioned

again into his old regiment. Sadly he fell on 30 September 1930, and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, and on the Great War memorial plaque at Wye Agricultural College, Ashford, Kent, where he had been a student, Stephen is also commemorated on page 569 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

ASLETT, Private, EDWARD, G/1210, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 3 July 1916.

Born St. Pancras, Middlesex. Enlisted Islington, Middlesex.

Resided Kings Cross, Middlesex.

Buried Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Dranouter, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref. II. F. 12.

Edward's is one of only two other ranks deaths in the 8th (Service) Battalion that are shown as having occurred on 3 July 1916. Both men were killed in action, and are at rest in the same row of graves at Dranoutre Military Cemetery.

ASLETT, Private, FREDERICK JAMES, G/1419, 8th (Service) Battalion.

Died 30 September 1915. Aged 24.

Born Clapham, Surrey. Enlisted Wandsworth, Surrey. Resided Tooting, Surrey.

Son of Alfred George and Ada Jane Aslett of 37, Rostella Road, Tooting, London.

Buried Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref. II. E. 3.

Frederick's is one of only two other ranks deaths in the 8th (Service) Battalion that are shown as having occurred on 30 September 1915. Both men having died of wounds, and as such it has not been possible to add any additional information here at this time appertaining to where, when or how Frederick was mortally wounded.

ASPLIN, Private, ERNEST EDWARD VAUGHAN, G/2351, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 13 October 1915. Aged 35.

Born Bow, Middlesex. Enlisted London. Resided Tilbury, Essex.

Husband of Ada E. Asplin of 7, Sydney Road, Tilbury, Essex.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the

Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included Ernest's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by Ernest's battalion on 13 October 1915 which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

ASPREY, Captain, MAURICE. 3rd (Reserve) Battalion.

Attached to Trench Mortar Battery

Killed in action 12 August 1916. Aged 23.

Son of George E. and Florence Asprey of 'The Court Lodge,' Chelsfield, Kent.

Buried Bray Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref. I. C. 25.

Maurice had served with the regiment as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion of the regiment after gaining his commission.

ASPREY, Serjeant, WILLIAM STEPHEN, S/19268, 3rd (Reserve) Battalion.

Died of Pneumonia 27 December 1914. Aged 25.

Born Woolwich, Kent. Enlisted New Cross, Kent. Resided Charlton, Kent.

Husband of Emily Asprey of 10, Aislibie Road, Lee, London.

Buried St. James's Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref. Q. K. 35.

William died of Pneumonia, taking into account his rank, battalion, date of death, burial location, and that there is no MIC entry indicative of overseas active service for him, it is likely that he was an instructor with the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the regiment, which remained in the Dover Garrison, based at the Citadel on the Western Heights as a training battalion for the duration of the war. William's entry on the regimental Nominal Roll records his regimental number as being slightly different to that as set out above, which was accessed from his CWGC commemoration, the NR shows S/9268.

ASSITER, Private, WILLIAM JOHN, L/9311, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 16 June 1918. Aged 25.

Born and resided Gillingham, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Son of the late William Henry and Emily Ruth Assiter.

Buried Contay British Cemetery, Contay, Somme, France. Grave Ref. VIII. A. 25.

William who was a regular soldier was killed in action, his was the only death recorded in the 7th (Service) Battalion as having occurred on 16 June 1918.

ASTBURY, Private, PERCY STANLEY, L/10572, 3rd (Reserve) Battalion.

Died 19 November 1915.

Born Leyton, Essex. Enlisted Woolwich. Kent. Resided North Woolwich, Essex.

Son of Mr. W. Astbury of 115, Halley Road, Forest Gate, London.

Buried St. James's Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref. M. I. 17.

Although a regular soldier Percy has no MIC entry indicating overseas active service. The relevant SDGW entry shows 'Died,' and in view of his place of burial and battalion details, it would probably be indicative of Percy having been on the Permanent Staff of 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, based at the Western Heights, Dover, Kent. Purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but it might have been the case that Percy was not of a sufficiently high enough medical grade to be sent overseas, possibly his condition being the direct result of a previous foreign posting.

ATKINS, Private, GEORGE CHARLES, G/5056, 7th (Service) Battalion.
Died 25 May 1918.

Born Mongeham, Deal, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Annois Communal Cemetery, Aisne, France. Grave Ref. I. B. 11.

George's is one of only two other ranks deaths in the 7th (Service) Battalion that are shown as having occurred on 25 May 1918. Both men are at rest in the same cemetery, and are recorded in/on SDGW as 'Died' as opposed to killed in action or died of wounds.

ATKINS, Private, GEORGE WILLIAM, G/1238, "A" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion.
Died 29 September 1916. Aged 25.

Born Kilburn, Middlesex. Enlisted Hampstead, Middlesex. Resided Kentish Town, Middlesex.

Son of Mrs. L. Kirk.

Husband of Nancy Careswell (formerly Atkins) of 78, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, London.

Buried Aveluy Wood Cemetery, Mesnil-Martinsart, Somme, France.

Grave Ref. III. B. 5.

On Friday 29 September 1916 the 7th (Service) Battalion relieved the 8th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment which belonged to the same 18th (Eastern) Division as George's battalion, at which time the battalion being relieved had suffered heavy casualties whilst engaged in the fighting at the enemy held Schwaben and Zollern trenches below Thiepval. Following the relief, "A" and "C" Companies proceeded to a position named 'Wood Post,' and "B" and "D" Companies occupied positions in the former German line. It **might** be of real significance regarding George's death, that a platoon of "A" Company personnel acted as a carrying party to Thiepval for the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Although the date for George's death has been entered as shown on his CWGC commemoration details, it should be noted that on other basic data checked, including SDGW, the date of his demise is shown as occurring on the following day, SDGW also shows that he had been killed in action. At 0400 hours on Saturday 30 September, the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment attacked the northern face of the Schwaben Redoubt successfully, but two platoons of George's battalion, supported by the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) were unable to make an impression on its western face. The Germans launched a counter attack commencing at 0900 hours, which was ultimately successful in forcing the soldiers of the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment back to the entrance of Stuff Trench, where it then consolidated and was able to held on.

ATKINS, Private, ROBERT JAMES, L/8217, 1st Battalion.

Died 4 November 1914.

Born Hythe, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent.

Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref. III. B. 22.

Commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Martin, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent.

SDGW records Robert as having died of wounds, and as such it has not been possible to ascertain where, when or how he had been mortally wounded.

ATKINS, Private, WILLIAM, G/9807, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 4 August 1916. Aged 25.

Born Elham, Kent. Enlisted Folkestone, Kent. Resided Swingfield, Dover, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Charlotte Atkins of Smalllden Cottage, Wootton, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5D, being numbered amongst the 532 names of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed on it.

William is also commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the Lych Gate of the parish church of St. Peter's, Swingfield, Kent.

On the evening of 3 August 1916, the 6th Battalion prepared to take part in an attack during the fighting on the Pozières Ridge near Thiepval on the Somme, the battalions objective being a trench system of strong points called "Ration Trench." Zero hour was set for 2315 hours, but just over two hours prior to the battalion going on the offensive enemy artillery bombarded their trenches, fortunately some French gunners were quick of the mark and returned fire with gas shells, which silenced the German artillery and doubtlessly saved the lives of some of the waiting Buffs. Eventually the attack was launched at the planned time, after successfully attacking, capturing and consolidating their gains following the action the battalion were relieved, and retired to Martinsart Wood where a roll call was taken which revealed that the battalion had lost 4 officers and 114 men in this action. Mention should be made of the part played by 20 year old Lieutenant Alexander J. Harmer on the night of 3/4 August 1916, a quarter of an hour before the main attack by the battalion, Alexander led a bombing party out of the trenches to deal with an enemy machine gun, which was expected to play a significant role in hampering the Buffs assault on Ration Trench when it got under way. 'Alex' and his men dealt with the offending machine gun, but sadly in doing so the gallant young officer was mortally wounded. He died in hospital at Rouen on 7 October 1916, and for his gallantry was awarded the Military Cross.

ATTEWELL, Private, ROBERT FREDERICK WILLIAM, G/3910, 6th Battalion.

Died 13 October 1915. Aged 18.

Born and resided Millwall, Middlesex. Enlisted Poplar, Middlesex.

Son of James and Susan Attewell of 32, Manilla Street, Millwall, London.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The

Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and then made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included Robert's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by Robert's battalion on 13 October 1915

which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

ATTWATER, Serjeant, ERNEST, T/201075, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 29 September 1917. Aged 21.

Born Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent 31 December 1896.

Son of Ernest Mark and Eliza Ann Attwater of Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Buried Nine Elms British Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. II. D. 9.

Unfortunately Ernest is not recorded in/on SDGW, and as such it has been possible to ascertain where Ernest had enlisted in Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 5 July 1915, but was probably at Sittingbourne, Kent. Likewise it has not been possible to add his place of residence, which was probably at Murston, Sittingbourne, Kent. Ernest was educated at the Murston National School, Sittingbourne, Kent, and prior to enlisting for war service; he had been employed at the Sittingbourne Paper Mills. Sergeant Major Hopgood D.C.M. wrote the following, "As his Platoon Sergt, I had every opportunity of knowing him for his value. Indeed, he was a brave boy, knowing no fear of anything, and even in the most trying positions, always kept his men up with his cheery remarks and jokes. I and the men have suffered a great loss by his death." Ernest lost his life resultant of an enemy aerial bombing attack, and at the time of his demise he was engaged to be married to Miss Dora Higgins. Sadly his brother, a fellow Serjeant also fell in the Great War he being:-

ATTWATER, Serjeant, BERTIE, 10426.

10th (Service) Battalion, (1st Gwent) South Wales Borderers.

Died 26 August 1918.

Born Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.

Buried Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France. Grave Ref. VIII. J. 32.

Formerly Royal Army Medical Corps.

AUBURN, Private, HERBERT GEORGE, G/25681, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 29 August 1918.

Born Haggerston, Middlesex. Enlisted Tottenham, Middlesex. Resided South Tottenham, Middlesex.

Buried Péronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. II. F. 19.

Seven other ranks deaths are recorded by SDGW, in the 6th (Service) Battalion on 29 August 1918. Five of whom are shown as killed in action, and two as having died of wounds, Herbert being named amongst those who were killed. Following a brief rest, the 12th (Eastern) Division to which the 6th (Service) Battalion belonged, recommenced attacked the retiring enemy troops on 22 August, pushing them across the devastated old Somme battlefields, during which time a number of enemy held positions including villages were taken, which had included the capturing of the villages of Meaulte, Mametz, Carnoy, and Hardecourt plus Faviere Wood, which was reached after a week of continuous fighting. The 12th (Eastern) Division had made an advance of approximately eight and a half miles, and had captured several prisoners and equipment. During the initial stages of the engagements, the 6th (Service) Battalion had been on loan to the 35th Brigade, but went back to their own 37th Brigade on 24 August. Over the next few days

the casualties to Herbert's battalion were surprising light, the 27th August being the worst day with eighteen other ranks deaths occurring. Seven other ranks deaths in the 6th (Service) Battalion, are recorded in/on SDGW as having occurred on 29 August 1918, five of whom are shown as killed in action, and two as died of wounds, Herbert being named amongst those that were killed. Reading different data sources seems to indicate that the majority of the deaths in the battalion, and probably amongst other regiments during this period, were as the direct result of the numerous enemy rear guard actions that were fought, some of which appear to have been quite heroic. The village of Maricourt was, at the beginning of the Battles of the Somme 1916, the point of junction of the British and French forces, and within a very short distance of the front line; it was lost in the German advance of March, 1918, and recaptured at the end of the following August. The cemetery where Herbert is at rest was originally known as Maricourt Military Cemetery No.3, was begun by fighting units and Field Ambulances in the Battles of the Somme 1916, and used until August, 1917; a few graves were added later in the War, and at the Armistice it consisted of 175 graves which now form almost the whole of Plot I. It was completed after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields in the immediate neighbourhood and from certain smaller burial grounds, and one of the latter burials appears to have been Herbert.

AUSTEN, Private, CECIL ROBERT, L/9180, 2nd Battalion.

Died 3 April 1915. Aged 24.

Born and enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of William and Alice Austen of Tivoli Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

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

Grave Ref. Enclosure No.4. XV. C. 9.

Commemorated on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.

Cecil was one of the four members of the 2nd Battalion who died on 3 April 1915, three of whom including Cecil were killed in action. At the time of his death Cecil's battalion was in the St. Eloi area. Zillebeke village where Cyril is at rest, and most of the commune were in the hands of Commonwealth forces for the greater part of the Great War, but the number of cemeteries in the neighbourhood bears witness to the fierce fighting in the vicinity from 1914 to 1918. Bedford House, sometimes known as Woodcote House, were the names given by the Army to the Chateau Rosendal, a country house in a small wooded park with moats. Although it never fell into German hands, the house and the trees were gradually destroyed by shell fire. It was used by several Field Ambulances and as the headquarters of brigades and other fighting units.

AUSTEN, Serjeant, HORACE GEORGE, G/2529, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 18 November 1916. Aged 22.

Born, enlisted and resided Margate, Kent.

Son of Emma Louisa Austen, of 2, Ethelbert Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. and the late Charles Austen.

Buried Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. B. 16.

Commemorated on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.

Although the day on which Horace lost his life is recorded as the last day of 'The Battle of the Somme 1916,' as that was the date chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig, in the

case of the 7th Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, by days end over 60 had been killed most falling during an attack on a enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina, from which the cemetery takes its name. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of the Somme villages of Pozières and Thiepval on the D73. Somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a Private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion's of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.

AUSTEN, Private, JOHN, G/17571, 7th (Service) Battalion.

Died 25 May 1917.

Born Dunkirk, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted and resided Faversham, Kent.

Buried Mons (Bergen) Communal Cemetery Mons, Hainaut, Belgium.

Grave Ref. IV. B. 11.

John was the only member of the 7th (Service) Battalion that died on 25 May 1917. SDGW records his demise as 'Died,' as opposed to having been killed in action or died of wounds.

AUSTEN, Private, SAMUEL ERNEST, L/8103, 1st Battalion.

Died of wounds 23 October 1914. Aged 28.

Born 'Copperhurst,' Knoll Hill, Aldington, Ashford, Kent, 24 October 1885.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chilham Lees, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Samuel and Eliza Annie Austen (née Stokes) of 2, East Villa, Chilham Lees, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref. I. A. 9.

Commemorated on the Chilham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

Educated at the Chilham National School, Canterbury, Kent. Samuel enlisted in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 27 September 1904, for a nine years engagement, which subsequently had included time spent in South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore, and India. Samuel returned to the United Kingdom on 1 February 1914 on the completion of his overseas postings, and was discharged with commitments to the Army Reserve. On the

outbreak of the Great War, Samuel joined The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) from the Army Reserve, and was attached to the 1st Battalion of the regiment in which he proceeded to Southampton, Hampshire on 7 September 1914, and went to France with his battalion aboard the SS Minneapolis, in the British Expeditionary Force. Samuel was mortally wounded on 23 October 1914, and was evacuated back to one of the Military Hospital's which were located at the town of St. Omer, Pas de Calais, where he succumbed to his wounds. Before enlisting in the army Samuel had worked locally with one of his brothers, at one of the local Gravel Pits, which was probably owned by Robert Brett & Co, of Canterbury, Kent. On one occasion when working in the pit, Samuel saved the life of his brother when a heap of gravel fell on top of him.

At the time of the 1901 census the Austen family resided at Walnut Tree Cottage, Lower Lees, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent. Samuel Austen (senior), who was a Publican, was the Head of the house, and Samuel Austen (junior) was a Paper Mill Labourer:-

SAMUEL AUSTEN.	Aged 52.	Born	Selling, Kent.
ELIZA AUSTEN.	Aged 50.	Born	Aldington, Kent.
LIZZIE AUSTEN.	Aged 18.	Born	Aldington, Kent.
SAMUEL AUSTEN.	Aged 15.	Born	Aldington, Kent.
VICTOR AUSTEN.	Aged 13	Born	Mersham, Kent.
ARCHIBALD AUSTEN.	Aged 10.	Born	Brabourne, Kent.
FRANK AUSTEN.	Aged 7.	Born	Brabourne, Kent.

AUSTIN, Private, ARCHIBALD LIONEL, S/9580, 1st Battalion.

Died 20 April 1916. Aged 24.

Born, enlisted and resided Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of George William and Rose Austin.

Husband of Mrs. D. Chandler (formerly Austin) of 49 Riversdale Road, Highbury, London.

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. VI. C. 16A.

Commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

SDGW records Archibald as died of wounds, and as such it has not been possible to add at this time, when, where or how he was mortally wounded.

AUSTIN, Private, JOHN, T/201134. 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 25 December 1917.

Born East Lynn, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Hove Old Cemetery, Sussex. Grave Ref. E. 123.

Five casualties with the surname Austin are commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial, but unfortunately John is not of their number. John died in the United Kingdom, his being the only death in the 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion. It came as no surprise to see that SDGW records John's demise as 'Died.'

AUSTIN, Private, STEPHEN, G/7830, 6th (Service) Battalion.

Died 27 August 1918. Aged 27.

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

Brother of Mrs. Smith of Honey Farm, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent.

Buried Péronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme, France. Grave Ref. II. F. 15.

Although Stephen probably lived all of his short life in the village of Egerton, Ashford, Kent, regrettably he is not commemorated on the Egerton civic war memorial.

Following a brief rest, the 12th (Eastern) Division to which the 6th (Service) Battalion belonged, recommenced attacked the retiring enemy troops on 22 August, pushing them across the devastated old Somme battlefields, during which time a number of enemy held positions including villages were taken, which had included the capturing of the villages of Meaulte, Mametz, Carnoy, and Hardecourt plus Faviere Wood, which was reached after a week of continuous fighting. The 12th (Eastern) Division had made an advance of approximately eight and a half miles, and had captured several prisoners and equipment. During the initial stages of the engagements, the 6th (Service) Battalion had been on loan to the 35th Brigade, but went back to their own 37th Brigade on 24 August. Over the next few days the casualties to Stephen's battalion were surprising light, the 27th August being the worst day with eighteen other ranks deaths occurring. Seven other ranks deaths in the 6th (Service) Battalion, are recorded in/on SDGW as having occurred on 29 August 1918, five of whom are shown as killed in action, and two as died of wounds, Alexander being named amongst those that were killed. Reading different data sources seems to indicate that the majority of the deaths in the battalion, and probably amongst other regiments during this period, were as the direct result of the numerous enemy rear guard actions that were fought, some of which appear to have been quite heroic. The village of Maricourt was, at the beginning of the Battles of the Somme 1916, the point of junction of the British and French forces, and within a very short distance of the front line; it was lost in the German advance of March, 1918, and recaptured at the end of the following August. The cemetery where Stephen is at rest was originally known as Maricourt Military Cemetery No.3, was begun by fighting units and Field Ambulances in the Battles of the Somme 1916, and used until August, 1917; a few graves were added later in the War, and at the Armistice it consisted of 175 graves which now form almost the whole of Plot I. It was completed after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from the battlefields in the immediate neighbourhood and from certain smaller burial grounds, and one of the latter burials appears to have been Stephen.

AVERY, Private, AMOS HARRY PERCIVAL, T/270358,

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

Killed in action at Beersheba, Palestine 31 October 1917. Aged 22.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of George Percival and Margaret Avery of 22, Carlton Gardens, Herne Bay, Kent.

Buried Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref. M. 61.

Commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, 2686, 3/1st East Kent Yeomanry, Amos had served with the Yeomanry in Egypt and Palestine. He was amongst the officers and other ranks that had joined "A" Company on 1 March 1917. On 30 October 1917 the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion rested at Khasif, which at the time was approximately six

miles from the Turkish position. With the coming of night the battalion set off to reach its allotted place for the offensive which was to commence at dawn the next morning. Fortunately no Turkish patrols were encountered by the battalion as it proceeded to 'Sussex Wadi,' where it silently got into position alongside soldiers of the 12th (Norfolk Yeomanry) Battalion Norfolk Regiment, by which time an outpost line had been established by the 16th (Sussex Yeomanry) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, which had encountered only light opposition. In preparation for the 'Battle of Beersheba' all the wadis had been given names, e.g. 'Sussex Wadi,' in addition to which several weeks before, all the freshly named locations had been entered on the maps to be used leading up to, and during the battle. It was also to the credit of the planning officers, that unusually the bulk of the different branches of the army that were to take part in the 'Battle of Beersheba' assembled at their prearranged positions during the night prior to the commencement of the battle. 231st and 230th Brigades attacked Beersheba at 0830 hours on the left of 60th Division, with the Amos's battalion and the 12th (Norfolk Yeomanry) Battalion Norfolk Regiment leading the attack. Their objectives were the main Turkish positions immediately south of the Wadi Saba, with the positions Z6 and Z7 being assigned to the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion to attack. Z6 and Z7 consisted primarily of machine gun emplacements in a line of trenches that had been cut into the white limestone rock. The machine guns were strategically well sited on the forward slope of a deep gully that had communication trenches which ran back to the sloping ground to the rear, with the enemy barbed wire entanglements located some 70 to 100 yards to the front of the Turkish trench lines. Although as had been expected stubborn resistance was met with during the attack, but by 1330 hours all objectives were taken. Later during the day, the 230th Brigade to which Amos's battalion belonged crossed the Wadi Saba, and successfully dealt with all of the Turkish defences as far north as the Beersheba to Tel-el-Fara road, while a brigade of 53rd Division threatened them from the west. Amos was numbered amongst the 9 members of his battalion who were killed in action on 31 October 1917, in addition to which, 104 wounded were wounded, 4 of whom succumbed to their wounds later the same day, 4 missing were posted as missing, 2 were recorded as having been shell shocked, and 2 to accidents occurred due to the rough nature of the ground.

AVERY, Private, SYDNEY, T/270781.

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

Died 8 December 1917.

Born Totley, Devon. Enlisted Westbere, Canterbury, Kent. Resided Barden Hill, Coalville, Leicestershire.

Buried Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref. B. 55.

Formerly Private, 1551, "A" Squadron, 3/1st West Kent Yeomanry. Sydney served with the Yeomanry in Egypt and Palestine; and had been amongst the officers and other ranks that joined "C" Company, on 1 March 1917. Sydney was killed in action during the 'Battle of Jerusalem' on 8 December 1917. Active preparations for the battle by his battalion commenced at about 2100 hours on the previous evening prior to Sydney's death. Due to a number of factors, including the fact that it was dark, wet and with the straps on the load carrying mules being covered in mud, it was not until 0100 hours on the day that Sydney fell, that the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry)

Battalion set off up a slippery hill in the moonlight near Biddu, and then down into Wadi Bawai below the village of Beit Surik, where the mules were relived of the burdens and left behind. After unloading of the mules, Sydney's battalion, and the 12th (Norfolk Yeomanry) Battalion, Norfolk Regiment moved to their places of deployment for the attack on the Ottoman forces. Prior to the events of 8 December 1917 the original plan of attack was altered, which had resulted in the assaulting troops going down into a wadi in single file and deploying below the Turkish trenches, as opposed to descending into the wadi en-masse. Amongst the numerous problems encountered by the Buffs and Norfolks leading up to the attack was the difficulty experienced by those at the rear, in being unable to keep touch with the leading companies, whilst going up and down the slippery slopes of the wadi. It was also a problem getting so many soldiers through the holes in the myriad of little walls that abounded in the area, combined with difficulties experienced of judging the distance to be traversed, and finding the jumping-off place below the Turkish position, all of which put the likelihood of an ultimate success in jeopardy. As the battalion deployed along the lower slopes of a precipice, "C" Company was on the right and "A" Company on the left. When initial contact was made with the enemy, it was the scouts of "C" Company who were climbing up in front that first drew fire from the Turkish soldiers. Several regimental historians, and other commentators have made references to the terrain and positions which the Turks held, it being perfectly suited to defence. In view of the aforementioned comments, it would appear that it was a difficult challenge which was faced by the soldiers taking part in the attack on the Turkish positions on 8 December 1917. When the main body of the ensconced enemy soldiers became involved in the battle, it was the officers and other ranks of "C" Company in the battalion who came under heavy fire from them as they neared the hill top, being subjected to well concealed snipers who concentrated their attention on the battalions' Lewis gunners. In addition to the activities of the accurate enemy snipers, "C" Company personnel was also enfiladed by enemy machine gun fire as they struggled up the precipice. Thankfully the officers and other ranks of "A" Company were hidden by a spur of the hill, and in stark contrast to "C" Company, managed to reach the top with few casualties. As the direct result of the rapid success achieved by the 229th Brigade, to the right of the 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion, the enemy soldiers that were opposing the battalion, realising that their flank was in imminent danger withdrew, allowing Sydney's battalion to occupy the vacated enemy positions and capture those Turkish soldiers who had remained to fight a holding rearguard action, and to tend the wounded of both sides.

AVERY, Private, THOMAS FRANK, T/1223, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.
Died 7 January 1916.

Born and resided Sandhurst, Kent. Enlisted Hawkhurst, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref. XXXI. B. 4.

Commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sandhurst, Kent.

On Friday 4 January 1916, the 5th (Weald of Kent) Battalion, (Territorial Force), The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was at Ali-el-Gharbi. The battalion moved up the river Tigris towards Sheikh Sa'ad, which is about 20 miles downstream of Kut-al-Amara, with all surplus stores being carried by river barges. The battalion only marched about eight miles

due to the prevailing inclement weather conditions, combined with the terrain encountered by the battalion. During the day it was extremely hot, but at nighttime the temperature dropped to below freezing, and rations at the time consisted mainly of bully beef and hard tack biscuits. On 6 January the march was resumed and enemy outposts were reached, and engagements with the enemy commenced shortly after midday, fortunately however casualties to the battalion were light. On 7 January 1916 the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad' was fought, at a point where the Turkish Army had established a camp which held approximately 4000 troops. During the battle, the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion advanced towards the enemy, but as with the other units also attacking the entrenched Ottoman forces during the battle, it did so without the help of supporting artillery, it being in stark contrast to the opposition, as the battalion came under extremely heavy artillery bombardment. As the day wore on the battalion started to suffer increasing casualties, which included the death of the battalion Adjutant, 24 year old Lieutenant Hugh S. Marchant, from Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent. In addition to the loss of the Adjutant, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Munn-Mace was wounded as was Major Eric Clarke. Thomas was one of the thirty seven other ranks in his battalion who were killed in action at Sheikh Sa'ad on 7 January 1916. Despite the Turkish forces which were encamped at Sheikh Sa'ad being in clearly an advantageous position, at the end of the day the position remained stalemate. Under the cover of darkness, several intelligence gathering patrols were sent out from various British and Empire units, all of which on returning to their lines reported that the enemy forces had by that time withdrawn further up the Tigris. The Turkish commander General Nur-Ud-Din had taken the decision to make the move, which a number of commentators have referred to as having been carried out very quietly, and probably swiftly. No one knew why the Turkish commander had made the strange decision to move his forces from Sheikh Sa'ad,' but as the result of same he was sacked was only a few days later on January 10 being replaced by Khalil Pasha. The month before the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad' was fought, General Nur-Ud-Din when commanding the besieging force at Kut-al-Amara had attempted to offer General Sir Charles Townshend immediate terms of surrender. He sent one of his Staff Captains under a white flag, with a personal letter outlining his demand which was rebuffed, and the Turkish Captain was sent back with a scathing retort written by General Townshend. As all the 37 members of the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion who died on 7 January 1916 at Sheikh Sa'ad, are recorded as having been killed in action, perhaps they way that they lost their lives could in truth be described as being fortunate. British casualties at Sheikh Sa'ad were over 4000. The provision of adequate medical capacity and supplies had not been high on the list of priorities for the limited transport from Basra, and the under equipped Field Ambulances struggled to cope. The Meerut Division had capacity to cope with 250 casualties, but were faced with thousands. More than 1000 wounded men were still lying out in the open, with barely first-aid administered to them, eleven days after the cessation of the fighting and the Turkish departure. Of these, approximately 100 were also suffering from Dysentery, and many of those who had been wounded during the 'Battle of Sheikh Sa'ad,' later succumbed to their woundings.

AXTELL, Lance Corporal, ROBERT PATEY, G/23747, 7th (Service) Battalion.
Died 28 March 1918.

Born Oxford, Oxfordshire. Enlisted Camberwell, Surrey. Resided East Dulwich, Surrey.
Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref. P. VII. H. 9B.

Formerly Private, 1688, Army Pay Corps. Robert's is the only death recorded by SDGW as having occurred on 28 March 1918. Unfortunately due to the fact that Robert is entered as died of wounds it has not been possible at this time to add additional details in respect of where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

AYRES, Serjeant, ARTHUR JAMES, G/6884, D.C.M., M.M. 1st Battalion.

Died 18 September 1918. Aged 27.

Born and resided Talaton, Ottery St. Mary, Exeter, Devonshire. Enlisted Fulham, Middlesex.

Son of Fredrick and Maria B. Ayres of Talaton, Ottery St. Mary, Exeter, Devonshire.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, and on the Talaton, Ottery St. Mary, Exeter, Devon civic war memorial, which is located in the parish churchyard of St. James the Apostle.

The following is an extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "Originally destined to take part in a projected attack for the recapture of Kemmel Hill and Village, the Division suddenly received orders at the end of August, to the delight of all, to move southwards at very short notice. During the 1st, 2nd and 3rd September the move southwards was carried out by rail, the Division, less artillery, detraining at Corbie, Heilly and Méricourt. On the 4th the Divisional Artillery followed, and the whole Division was concentrated in the area Heilly-Ribemont-Franvillers on the River Ancre, in G.H.Q. Reserve. The next few days were devoted to a continuation of the training in open warfare commenced in the Wizernes area. The Germans, forced back in July and August from the high-water mark of their advance in March and April, had stood on the line of the Somme and the Péronne--Arras road. In the southern sector of the British front the Somme defences had been turned by the brilliant capture of Mont St. Quentin (to the north of and guarding Péronne) by the Australian Corps. The retreating enemy had been pursued across the Somme by the 32nd Division, which had been attached temporarily to the Australians. This Division now became part of the newly-constituted IX Corps (Lt.-Gen. Sir W. Braithwaite), which was to bear such a glorious part in the concluding chapter of the War, and which consisted of 1st, 6th, 32nd and 46th Divisions. The 32nd Division had followed the enemy without much incident up to the large Holnon Wood, three and a half miles west of St. Quentin, and it was there that the Division (p. 059) relieved it on night 13/14th September, with the 1st Division on the left and the 34th (French) Division on the right. It was expected that the enemy would stand on the heights which command St. Quentin to the west and south, but it was not known whether their resistance would be strong or not, as they were much disorganized. The 1st and 6th Divisions, hand in hand with the French, were ordered to capture this tactical line on 18th September, as a starting-point for the attack on the Hindenburg Line, which ran just outside St. Quentin to the canal at Bellenglise. To the 18th Infantry Brigade was entrusted the task of securing a

line well clear of Holnon Wood for the forming-up line on the 18th, and in doing so it first had to clear the wood and establish posts at the edge, then push forward. The selected forming-up line included to us Holnon Village on the right and next to the French. On the morning of the 16th September the 11th Essex, after an unsuccessful attempt to push forward during the night, attacked under a barrage and advanced from the line of posts taken over a little way inside the wood to a line of trenches just clear of the wood, capturing in this small operation forty-six prisoners. It was now arranged for the 1st, 6th and 34th (French) Divisions to advance simultaneously to secure the above-mentioned starting line. On the left the 1st Division was successful, and so were the 11th Essex, who, held up at first by heavy shelling and machine-gun fire, persevered throughout the day and were rewarded by finishing up in possession of the whole of their objectives, a very creditable performance. On the right the West Yorks had to secure Holnon Village, which lay in a hollow commanded by Round and Manchester Hills in the area allotted to the French, and which was itself strongly held. The French failed in their attack, and though the West Yorks obtained part of the village they could not clear it and establish the starting line (p. 060) beyond it. The situation at the end of the 17th was therefore unsatisfactory on the right, but it was impossible to put off the general attack, and arrangements had to be improvised. Another unsatisfactory feature was that Holnon Wood covered practically the whole 2,500 yards frontage of the Division, and was so drenched with gas shells and the tracks so bad, that both 16th and 71st Infantry Brigades had to make a detour north and south of the wood respectively to reach their assembly positions, and this naturally fatigued the troops and hindered communication and supply. Standing on the east edge of the wood, a bare glacis-like slope devoid of cover, except for two or three shell-trap copses, stretched away for 3,000 yards to the high ground overlooking St. Quentin. There was no sign of life and very few trenches could be seen, though it was known that they were there as the Fifth Army had held the position in March 1918. It was found afterwards that the Germans had camouflaged their trenches with thistles, which here covered the ground to a height in many places of eighteen inches. At the highest point about the centre of the Divisional area of attack was a network of trenches known later as the Quadrilateral--a name of bad omen to the 6th Division--and which, like its namesake on the Somme, could be reinforced under cover from the back slopes of the hill. An examination of the battlefield after the 24th September also revealed several narrow sunken roads filled with wire. The position was one of great natural strength, and in addition the whole of the right was dominated by heights in the area to be attacked by the French. Lastly, adequate time could not be given to Brigades for reconnaissance owing to the imperative necessity of pushing on to guard the flank of Corps farther north. Troops had not seen the ground they had to attack over, and rain and smoke obscured the few landmarks existing on 18th September. On that morning the Division attacked at 5.20 a.m. with the 71st Infantry Brigade on the right, its left directed on the Quadrilateral and its right on Holnon and Selency. The 16th Infantry Brigade was on the left, with its right just clear of the Quadrilateral and its left on Fresnoy le Petit. Six tanks were allotted to the Division, but met with various mishaps or were knocked out, and were not of much use. The attack met with most determined opposition at once, especially on the right, where the difficulties of the 71st Infantry Brigade were increased by the failure of the French to take Round and Manchester Hills. The 2nd D.L.I., attached to this brigade to complete the clearing of Holnon Village,

accomplished this, but were driven out by shelling and by machine gun fire from Round and Manchester Hills, losing very heavily. The 16th Infantry Brigade was more successful, and at one time the York and Lancasters had nearly completed the capture of Fresnoy le Petit, but were unable to hold it. The brigade advanced, however, 3,000 yards. Fighting was continuous throughout the day, but without further success. The Sherwood Foresters advancing very gallantly against the Quadrilateral were reported as being just outside it and entrenched. It was machine gun fire from this stronghold which prevented the right of the 16th Infantry Brigade advancing, and an attack was therefore ordered for dawn of the 19th September, but it was evidently anticipated by the enemy, who put down a very heavy artillery and machine-gun barrage before the attackers left their jumping-off positions. Fighting again continued throughout the day, but without success, and it was evident that the enemy meant standing his ground and that this was not a rearguard action as it had at one time been thought. The enemy's artillery was very strong, and, with the thick Hindenburg wire in front of it, was placed close to their front line, and was enabled thus to do considerable execution on our back areas. The successes of other Divisions in the south of the British zone had been constant and fairly easy for some time, so that the partial success which the Division had obtained was very disappointing to all ranks. They were much cheered, therefore, to get the following wire from the Army Commander (General Sir H. Rawlinson) "Please convey to the 6th Division my congratulations and warm thanks for their success of yesterday. Though all objectives were not attained they carried through a difficult operation with great gallantry and determination. I offer to all ranks my warm thanks and congratulations." The award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Arthur was published in the London Gazette, dated 30 October 1918, and reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great dash and courage during a raid. He was first over the parapet and dashed on ahead to the objective. He assisted his officer in getting five of the enemy out of a dug-out, killing one and capturing the rest. All this was done before the platoon had reached the post. Throughout the operation he set a fine example to the men."

Another of the thirteen Great War casualties, who are also commemorated on the village tribute at Talaton, Ottery St. Mary, Exeter, Devon, is a brother of Arthur's, he being:-

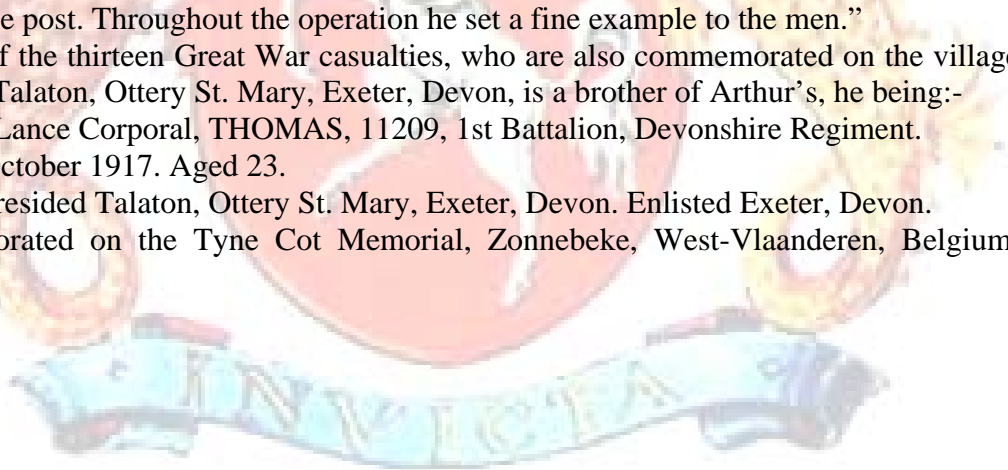
AYRES, Lance Corporal, THOMAS, 11209, 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment.

Died 29 October 1917. Aged 23.

Born and resided Talaton, Ottery St. Mary, Exeter, Devon. Enlisted Exeter, Devon.

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

Panel 38.



AYRES, Private, CHARLES, T/202430, 7th (Service) Battalion. (please see below).
Died 9 April 1918. Aged 37.

Born Heston, Middlesex. Enlisted and resided Hounslow, Middlesex.

Buried Boisguillaume Communal Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref. C. 21A.

Charles probably died of wounds whilst a patient at the No. 8 General Hospital, which was quartered at Boisguillaume in a large country house and grounds. Unfortunately there is an error or errors regarding which of the regiments Service Battalions Charles actually served in. His CWGC commemoration details show the 7th (Service) Battalion, but his SDGW entry records him as being a member of the 8th (Service) Battalion. Adding to the confusion is that based on his regimental number, Charles had been a member of the Territorial Force. As Charles died of wounds, it has also unfortunately not been possible to add at this brief commemoration, exactly where, when or how he was mortally wounded.

AYRES, Private, ERNEST EDWARD, T/3321, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.
Died 22 May 1916.

Born Kensington, Middlesex. Enlisted Marylebone, Middlesex. Resided North Kensington, Middlesex.

Buried Basra War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref. VI. M. 1.

Formerly Private, 13221, 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Ernest was the only member of the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion to die on 22 May 1916. SDGW records his demise as 'Died' as opposed to having been killed in action or died of wounds. Although Ernest's death certificate or any other supporting documentary evidence has not been sighted, but when taking into account the high proportion of deaths that occurred within the Mesopotamian war theatre it would seem likely that he had died of illness or disease.

