

Chartham



Chartham Civic War Memorial

Since we photographed the granite war memorial, which was unveiled in October 1920 by Kent native Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Doveton Sturdee, Bt., G.C.B, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., not only has it been cleaned, but is now an English Heritage listed monument. The Memorial Playing Field, Station Road, Chartham, Kent, is also another form of remembrance of the parish war dead, as is the Book of Remembrance, in the safe keeping of the parish church of St. Mary.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Royal Navy & Royal Marine Casualties

Of the thirteen Royal Navy/Royal Marine casualties of the Great War who are commemorated on the Chartham, Kent civic war memorial, three served onboard H.M.S. Cressy, another served on H.M.S. Hawke, and another on H.M.S. Hogue. All three of the aforementioned Royal Navy ships were sunk by the German submarine U-9, which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen. It was noted during the brief transcribing of those who are commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial, that some are erroneously recorded as being a native of Chatham, Kent, on various data sources consulted.

ASHBEE, ARTHUR GEORGE. Private, CH/1556(S).

1st Royal Marine Battalion, Royal Naval Division.

Died 27 September 1918.

Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Ashbee of 16 New Town, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Anneux British Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: I.D.5.

Prior to enlisting in the Royal Marines on 23 May 1916, Arthur had been employed as a Papermaker at Chartham Paper Mill. Arthur served in the 3rd Royal Marine Battalion from 1 November 1916 to 17 April 1918, prior to being placed in a draft for the 1st Royal Marine Battalion, which was serving in France. He joined the 1st Royal Marine Battalion, Royal Naval Division on 7 June 1918, in which he then remained until the date of his death.

CACKETT, HORACE JAMES. Petty Officer Stoker, 309910.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Defence.

Died 31 May 1916. Aged 33.

Born Canterbury, Kent 8 August 1883.

Son of George and Caroline Elizabeth Cackett of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Husband of Kate May Cackett of 24, St. Vincent Terrace, Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 14.

H.M.S Defence was sunk by gunfire during the Battle of Jutland, and the following brief extract from the Official History; "Naval Operations" by Sir Julian S. Corbett, which was published in 1923 sums up the fate of Horace's ship. "Both the Defence and Warrior had already hit the doomed Wiesbaden. Still Admiral Arbuthnot, in spite of straddling salvos, held on till within 5,500 yards of his prey he turned to starboard. Both ships were now in a hurricane of fire, which the Germans were concentrating with terrible effect to save their burning ship, and there quickly followed another of the series of appalling catastrophes which so tragically distinguish this battle from all others. Four minutes after crossing the Lion's bows the Defence was hit by two heavy salvos in quick succession, and the Admiral and his flagship disappeared in a roar of flame." Admiral Arbuthnot, to whom Sir Julian S. Corbett makes reference, was Rear Admiral Sir Robert K. Arbuthnot, Bart., C.B., M.V.O.

COLEMAN, GEORGE HENRY. Stoker 2nd Class, K/21846.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pathfinder.

Died 5 September 1914. Aged 20.

Born Canterbury, Kent 30 May 1894.

Son of George and Annie Coleman of Horton Cottages, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 6.

H.M.S. Pathfinder a 2,900 ton Pathfinder Scout Class cruiser which was built by Cammell Laird & Co Ltd at Birkenhead, she was launched on 16 July 1904 and commissioned on 18 July 1905. At the time of the commencement of the Great War H.M.S. Pathfinder was the leader of the 8th Destroyed Flotilla based at Rosyth, Scotland. On Saturday 5 September 1914 whilst running short of coal, H.M.S. Pathfinder was only making 5 knots at the time of her loss, which was at approximately 1630 hours when she was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea off St. Abbs Head, Berwickshire, Scotland, approximately 10 miles to the southwest of the Island of May. She was sunk by a torpedo fired from quite long range from the type U19 Mittel-U class, German u-boat U-21, which at the time was commanded by Leutnant zur See, Otto Hersing. H.M.S. Pathfinder has the unenviable distinction of being the first Royal Navy warship to be sunk during the Great War by a submarine of the Imperial German Navy, and the first ship ever to be sunk by the use of a torpedo alone fired from a submarine. H.M.S. Pathfinder was struck by the torpedo in one of her magazines, which exploded causing the ship to sink within about four minutes with the loss of 259 officers and ratings; there were only 11 survivors of the sinking. Having sunk 36 ships for a total of 78,712 tons (warships excluded), on 22 February 1919 the U-21 sunk as the result of an accident whilst on passage under tow to surrender to the allied powers. Some data accessed states that the Commander of the U-21 ordered his crew to open the sea cocks of the u-boat, and scuttled the submarine. Having later been promoted to Kapitänleutnant, Otto Hersing survived the Great War, despite having had a not insignificant monetary bounty placed on him by the British. When being interviewed by the journalist Lowell Thomas during the inter war years, as to what he did for a living, Otto Hersing told him that he was a Potato Farmer, which took the journalist by surprise as he was expecting him to answer with something of a nautical bent. Contained within the excellent u-boat museum at Cuxhaven-Altenbruch, Germany, is a lot of ephemera appertaining to Otto Hersing, including his Log Book, which notes in detail the events leading up to the loss of H.M.S. Pathfinder, part of which describes the weather that prevailed at the time: - "For a terrible time, snow storms and fog, reason why as soon as we could see nothing, only black cloud strips twisting in grotesques forms in front of us. But we had to cross the British lines protected by the fog."

COOK, WILLIAM. Stoker 1st Class, K/35042.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Bee.

Died 12 March 1919.

Born Canterbury, Kent 16 July 1892.

Buried New International Cemetery, Hankow, China. Grave Ref: 197.

Also commemorated on the Sai Wan (China) Memorial.

H.M.S. Bee on which William served was a China Station Insect class gunboat. Having been originally built for service on the River Danube, during the Great War years H.M.S. Bee Served at Port Said, Egypt from 1915 until April 1916, and had later served on the Yangtze River, China. On 22 March 1939 H.M.S. Bee was sold for scrap in Shanghai.

DANIELS, E. No clear trace.

FAGG, ALBERT. Chief Stoker, 154116. (RFR/CH/A/1846).

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Cressy.

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 44.

Born Preston, Kent 13 August 1870.

Husband of L.K. Ringer (formerly Fagg) of 605 Dominion Street, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 4.

Early in the Great War the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers which was called 'Cruiser Force C,' in an area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. On 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 had become the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on 22 September 1914 the same submarine under the command of Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since 1 August 1914, sighted H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S.Aboukir and H.M.S.Hogue all steaming NNE at 10 knots without zigzagging, although the patrols were supposed to maintain a speed of 12 to 13 knots and zigzag, the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed, and the zigzagging order was widely ignored mainly due to the fact that there had been no enemy submarines sighted in that area of the North Sea at that stage of the war. Otto Weddigen and his crew later the same day put into practice under wartime conditions what they had perfected in peacetime, and were able to reload torpedoes beneath the waves. Otto Weddigen maneuvered the U-9 to attack the three cruisers, and at approximately 0625 hours fired a single torpedo at H.M.S.Aboukir which struck her on her port side. H.M.S.Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned although only one boat had survived the attack, as the result of which most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Captain Drummond thought that H.M.S.Aboukir had been mined and signaled the other two cruisers to close and assist with the rescue of his crew, but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late. As H.M.S.Aboukir rolled over and sank only half an hour after being attacked, Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes at H.M.S. Hogue that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of H.M.S. Hogue had stopped his ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of H.M.S.Aboukir, thinking that as he was the other side of H.M.S.Aboukir from the enemy submarine he would be safe. Unfortunately the U-9 had managed to maneuver around H.M.S.Aboukir and attacked H.M.S.Hogue from a range of about only 300 yards, and it only took H.M.S.Hogue ten minutes to sink as the U-9 headed for H.M.S.Cressy, which was commanded by Captain Johnson. H.M.S.Cressy had also stopped to lower boats but she quickly got underway on sighting a submarine periscope. At about 0720 hours Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed, but the other hit H.M.S.Cressy on her starboard side. The damage to H.M.S.Cressy was not fatal but the U-9 then turned round and fired her last torpedo as a coup de grace, which hit H.M.S.Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch vessels Flora and Titan, and the British trawlers JGC and Corainder, before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. Flora returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain, even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of whom were reservists or cadets. On 18 March 1915 the German u-boat U-29 was rammed and sunk by H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, all 32 submariners onboard perished including Otto Weddigen who had been in command since 16 February 1915.

INGRAM, WILLIAM HENRY. Stoker 1st Class, SS/111804

Royal Navy, H.M.S Hogue.

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 24.

Born Brixton, London 28 July 1893.

Son of William Henry Wakefield Ingram and Blanche Mary Ingram of Rattington Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 5.

For additional details appertaining to William's death, please see comments at the brief commemoration of Albert Fagg the casualty above.

LOUDER, ARCHIBALD STEWART. Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class, 271761.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Natal.

Died 30 December 1915. Aged 25.

Born Gillingham, Kent 6 April 1889.

Son of Frederick Alfred and Jane Louder of 28, St. George's Road, Gillingham, Kent.

Husband of Ida Louder of Chartham Downs, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11.

H.M.S. Natal was a Royal Navy 13,550 ton Warrior class armoured cruiser which was commissioned in 1907. She was at anchor in the Cromarty Firth when she quite literally exploded at about 1520 hours on the afternoon of 30 December 1915. A series of violent internal explosions tore through the ship, and within five minutes she capsized a blazing wreck. At the time of her loss, the ships commander Captain, Eric P.C. Back R.N., and his wife were hosting a party onboard the ship, which included nurses, civilians and children, all of whom were among the 388 who lost their lives when the ship blew-up. Those bodies which were recovered from the sea were interred in Rosskeen Churchyard Extensions, (or Burial Ground) Invergordon, Ross-shire, Scotland, and are included amongst the 150 Commonwealth burials from both world wars at rest at Rosskeen. Following the loss of H.M.S. Natal an Admiralty Board of Enquiry was convened; the official result from same was that the explosion onboard H.M.S. Natal was due to the deterioration of cordite in the ships magazine. For many years following the tragedy there was a story circulating in many quarters about the ship having been sabotaged. This apparently was based on 'the fact' that the Dreadnought battleship H.M.S. Vanguard had also exploded mysteriously after being visited by a particular Ordnance Chargehand, who also went into the magazine of H.M.S. Natal just before she too exploded and sank. The man in question is reputed to have then disappeared without trace; an obvious explanation accounting for his disappearance was that he too was lost when H.M.S. Natal exploded. For comprehensive details about the ship, probably the best book to consult is "They Called It Accident" by A. Cecil Hampshire which tells the story of H.M.S Natal from when she was launched until her tragic loss.

MOAT, WALTER JAMES. Leading Seaman 150687.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke.

Died 21 November 1914. Aged 42.

Born South Shields, County Durham 26 December 1873.

Son of George and Mary Ann Moat of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Husband of Mary Ann Moat of 25, St. Winifreds Road, Folkestone, West, Kent.

Buried Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham, Kent. Grave Ref: Naval 13. 656.

Also commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial, and on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of All Souls, Cheriton, Kent.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pembroke where Walter served was a Royal Naval Barracks at Chatham, Kent.

WHITE, FREDERICK. Petty Officer Stoker, 297650.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Cressy.

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 31.

Born Canterbury, Kent 27 April 1882.

Son of James White and H. Emily Jane White of Chartham Downs, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 4.

For additional details appertaining to Frederick's death, please see comments at the brief commemoration of Albert Fagg.

J. F. PURCELL. No trace.

RAINES, FREDERICK CHARLES. Stoker 1st Class, 296016. (RFR/CH/B/4733).

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hawke.

Died 15 October 1914. Aged 31.

Born Faversham, Kent 9 March 1882.

Son of William and Elizabeth Raines of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Husband of Emma Elizabeth Raines 47, Park Road, Faversham, Kent. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 5.

Of all the vessels of any nation that were lost during either of the two world wars without a doubt the loss of H.M.S. Hawke, has been the easiest to ascertain 'facts' by the transcriber for inclusion on this or any other website. One of the sixty survivors of the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke was Royal Naval Reservist, and peacetime Postman, Joseph Edward Cooke of Parracombe, Barnstaple, Devon. One of Joseph's grandsons Kenneth Cooke, is like his late grandfather a former member of the Royal Navy, and has been a long time friend of the transcriber of these brief commemorations. On several occasions in the past Ken has helped in explaining obscure nautical phrases, and also provided other information appertaining to the Royal Navy. About thirty years ago Ken furnished the transcriber with data appertaining to the loss of H.M.S. Hawke, including a copy of a newspaper interview that his grandfather had given after his safe return to Parracombe. The newspaper cutting is incredibly accurate and consistent with that of other data which has been accessed from books and the internet. Commanded by 40 year old Captain Hugh P.E.T. Williams, R.N. who was a recipient of a Royal Humane Society Medal. H.M.S. Hawke was a 7,770 ton armoured cruiser of the Edgar class, which at the time of her loss was operating as part of the 10th Cruiser Squadron assigned to the Northern Patrol. H.M.S. Hawke was laid down on 17 June 1889, and had been launched at Chatham, Kent on 11 March 1891, which meant that she was one of the oldest ships still in service with the Royal Navy at the time of her loss. She had been re-commissioned in February 1913 with a nucleus crew, and had come up to her full complement at the commencement of the Great War. On 15 October 1914 H.M.S. Hawke was being used as a training ship and had many young naval cadets on board, and was sailing in company with H.M.S. Theseus. When the ships were approximately sixty miles off the coast of Aberdeen, H.M.S. Hawke turned to intercept a neutral Norwegian collier, shortly after doing so both ships were attacked by the faster German submarine U-9, which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen, who had been tracking the ships for some time. When he commenced his attack Otto Weddigen fired his first torpedo at H.M.S. Theseus, but fortunately it had missed her. Quickly turning his attention to H.M.S. Hawke, Otto Weddigen then fired a torpedo which struck her amidships near the magazine. The initial detonation which shook the ship violently was followed by a second terrific explosion, which resulted in a large number of the crew of H.M.S. Hawke being killed. From when she was first hit, H.M.S. Hawke sank in less than minutes, and as such it was only possible to launch one of the ships cutters which was the mail dory, which perchance had been lowered before the torpedo had hit the ship. Captain Hugh Williams, 26 officers and approximately 500 ratings were lost with the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke, but 4 officers and 60 men survived. Although only designed to carry 29 people, the sole ships cutter which had got away, eventually contained 49 sailors who were picked up about five hours later by a Norwegian steamer, all of whom were later transferred to a trawler and safely landed at Aberdeen. In addition to those who survived in the ships cutter, another 15 of the crew clinging to a raft were spotted and picked up by a passing ship, and were all landed at Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Joseph Cooke commented that after he had plunged into the icy waters of a heavy sea, he had swam for about three quarters of a mile before being picked up by the cutter, and whilst swimming he had passed the life raft at which time it had about 150 clinging to it, and that he was later informed that only 15 of their number had survived. Joseph also made mention that shortly after firing the torpedo which sunk H.M.S. Hawke, the German submarine briefly surfaced to see the effects of its discharge, disappearing again beneath the waters immediately. H.M.S. Theseus had been under strict Admiralty orders not to attempt to pick up survivors, as on 22 September 1914 there had been the well documented disaster involving three other Royal Navy ships, they being H.M.S. Cressy, H.M.S. Aboukir and H.M.S. Hogue, all were sunk by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen with the U-9. The following is a brief account (verbatim), of the events on 14 October 1914, written by a crewman of the U-9, relevant to the sinking of H.M.S.

Hawke. "I gazed at the little picture of the upper ocean. The distant three cruisers were some wide space apart, but were converging, and were steering for a point and that point was apparently in the vicinity where we lay. No wonder the Commander thought they must want a torpedo. We imagined they were bent on joining forces and steaming together, but it presently became apparent that they intended to exchange signals, drop a cutter in the water, and deliver mail or orders, and then go their respective ways. We steered at full speed for the point toward which they were heading, our periscope showing only for a few moments at a time. The Cruisers, big armoured fellows, came zigzagging. We picked one, which afterward turned out to be H.M.S. Hawke, and maneuvered for a shot. It was tricky work. She nearly ran us down. We had to dive deeper and let her pass over us; else we would have been rammed. Now we were in a position for a stern shot at an angle, but she turned. It was a fatal turning, for it gave us an opportunity to swing around for a clear bow shot at 400 metres. We dived beyond periscope depth, ran underwater for a short distance, and then came up for a look through our tall, mast-like eye. The Hawke had already disappeared. She sank in eight minutes. Only one boat was in the water. It was the mail dory that had been lowered before the torpedo explosion. At the rudder the boat officer hoisted a distress signal on the boat's staff. That little dory with half a dozen men aboard was all that was left of the proud warship."

SWAN, WILLIAM HENRY. Leading Seaman, 237021.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Cressy.

Died 22 September 1914. Aged 25.

Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent 2 May 1890.

Son of Ellen Swan of Willow Cottages, Rattington Square, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 1.

For additional details appertaining to William's death, please see comments at the brief commemoration of Albert Fagg.



Army Casualties

ARNOLD, Captain, VICTOR.

1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

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.

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.

BISHOP, GEORGE EWART. Private, G/69559.

17th (Service) Battalion, (Empire) Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 12 April 1918. Aged 19.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chartham Downs, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of George and Frances Bishop, of 27, Asylum Cottages, Chartham Downs, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Hessen, Germany. Grave Ref: IV.C.5.

Formerly Private, (TR/10/18078), Training Regiment, Battalion.

It would appear that George's birth was registered in the Hailsham, Sussex district in the first quarter of 1889.

CARE, FREDERICK THOMAS. Private, SR/10584
2nd Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment).
Died of wounds Bailleul, Nord, France 22 July 1915.
Born and resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: I.C.102.

Formerly Private, 1650, "B" Company, 4th (Territorial Force Battalion), The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Having served in the aforementioned capacity from 25 June 1913 to 4 February 1914, Frederick then re-enlisted for a six year army Special Reserve engagement from the latter date. Frederick's parents were William Henry Care and Louisa Care, both of whom at the time of the 1901 census were residing with their ten children at Rattington Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Frederick T. Care was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 4 year old native of Chartham. Prior to joining the army, Frederick was employed as a Paper Mill Labourer at Chartham Paper Mill.

CARE, SYDNEY. Corporal, G/8657.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment).
Died 19 May 1917. Aged 23.
Born and resided Chartham. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent 13 November 1915.
Son of George Frederick and Elizabeth Carr, of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Jessie Carr (née Vaughan), of 24, Barnes Cray Walk, Crayford, Kent, formerly of Hatch Farm, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Dorian Memorial, Greece.
A former Temporary Postman, Sydney was appointed to a Lance Corporal on 1 February 1916, and to the rank of Corporal on 18 August 1916. Sydney was initially reported as missing on 5 May 1917. Depending on what data sources are accessed results in the variants of Sydney and Sidney, re Corporal Care.

CAVELL, STANLEY HERBERT. Sergeant, SE/5304.
Army Veterinary Corps, attached to the 177th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 21 March 1918. Aged 31.
Born Walmer, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Louie Yarsley Barnett (formerly Cavell) of 2, Alicia Villas, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 11.

CHEESEMAN. J. No clear trace, but is possibly the following 'Kent' casualty:-

CHEESEMAN. JAMES. Private, 40582.
7th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.
Died 14 September 1917.
Born Ash, Kent. Enlisted Walsall.
Buried Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: VI. A. 22.
Formerly Private, 1996, South Staffordshire Regiment.

COLE. C. No clear trace.

COLEMAN H. No clear trace.

COLLARD, ROLAND. Private, G/5123.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 18 August 1916.
Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Bromley, Kent. Resided Holness Park, Sherborne, Dorset.
Son of Joseph and Louisa Collard, of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France. Grave Ref: IV.J.6.

COLLINSON, HENRY. Corporal, 61343.
1st Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Died 3 January 1919.
Born Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Mrs Sarah Collinson, of 9, New Town, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Quetta Government Cemetery. Grave Ref: 2544.
Commemorated on the Delhi Memorial, India. Face 1.
At the time of the 1901 census the Collinson family was residing at Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent. Canterbury, Kent native Henry Collinson (senior) aged 45, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer was the Head of the house. His wife Sarah aged 47 was also a native of Canterbury, Kent. It would appear that as the 1901 census had been carried out on 31 March, and the census enumerator had entered Henry (junior) as being a 17 year old Paper Mill employee, Henry was probably 34 years old at the time of his demise.

CORK, ALBERT. Private, G/9765.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 10 August 1917. Aged 30.
Born and resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Emma and the late William Cork.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12.

CRAGGS, PERCIVAL. Second Lieutenant.
13th (Service) Battalion, (1st Barnsley) York & Lancaster Regiment.
Died 30 September 1918. Aged 25.
Son of Edward William and Annie Craggs of "Chief's House," Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
Buried Strand Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.
Grave Ref: VIII.D.7.
Formerly Corporal, 96536, Royal Engineers.

DADSON, ALBERT. Private, G/15581.
7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 May 1917. Aged 30.
Born Westfield, Hastings, Sussex. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Mark and Elizabeth Ann Dadson.
Husband of Ellen Dadson of Primrose Hill, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2.
At the time of the 1891 census, Mark and Elizabeth Dadson resided at Lone Barn Cottages, Udimore, Rye, Sussex. Amongst the eight Dadson children in residence was 2 year old Albert. By the time that the 1901 census was being conducted, the family resided at Brede High, Ewehurst, Battle, Sussex.

DALE, SYDNEY. Private, 10798.
1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.
Died 31 August 1916. Aged 22.
Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Edward William Dale of 1 West View Cottages, Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 6 B and 6 C.
At the time of the 1901 census, the enumerator entered the above with his Christian name spelt SIDNEY. In addition to Sidney and his father, Sidney's mother, 46 year old Thetford, Cambridgeshire native Susannah Dale was recorded as also residing at the house on Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

DASHWOOD, GEORGE LEWIN. Private, 8765.
3rd Regiment, South African Infantry.
Died 9 April 1917. Aged 26.
Son of George and F. Dashwood of Queenstown, South Africa.
Buried Point-Du-Jour Military Cemetery, Athies, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: II.A.3.
George's date of death and place of burial are of particular relevance to his regiment. Athies was captured by the 9th (Scottish) Division, which included the South African Brigade, on 9 April 1917, and it then remained in Allied hands for the remainder of the Great War.

FINCH, THOMAS. Private, 32537.
1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Prince of Wales Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment).
Died 23 October 1918. Aged 23.
Born Chatham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Susan and the late Thomas Finch of 8, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Hainaut, Belgium.
Grave Ref: V.D.5.
Formerly Private, 38544, Machine Gun Corps.
At the time of the 1901 census, 5 year old Thomas was residing with his widowed mother, two brothers and a sister at 62 castle Street, Canterbury, Kent.

FRISBY, EDWIN DANIEL. Lance Corporal, 8546.
2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment.
Died 18 March 1915. Aged 21.
Born Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Aldershot, Hampshire. Resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Mr Alfred Frisby of 1, Asylum Cottages, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Brompton Cemetery, Fulham Road, London. SW10 9UG.
Grave Ref: N.172981.
One of Edwin's brothers, Private, Alfred Frisby died in 1920, serving in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

GAMBRELL, ARTHUR. Private, 106238.
1st Canadian Mounted Rifles (Saskatchewan Regiment).
Died 5 June 1916. Aged 37.
Born Herne Bay, Kent, 30 January 1882. Enlisted Yukton, Canada 30 December 1914.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick G. Gamble of Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent.
Husband of the late Beatrice Gambrell.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 30, and on page 89 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.
Formerly 4th Hussars (East Kent).
At the time of the 1901 census, 21 year old Arthur was residing with his parents Frederick G. E. and Sophia L. Gambrell, at The Street, Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent, where Frederick had a Butchers shop.

GOODBAN, STANLEY. Private, 235387.
2nd/5th Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment.
Died 4 October 1917.
Born Boughton-under-Bean, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Throwley, Faversham, Kent.
Buried Cement House Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: I.F.7.
Formerly Private, 3385, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

GUTTERIDGE, WALTER CYRIL. Corporal, 9677.
2nd Battalion, Border Regiment.
Died 4 October 1917. Aged 23.
Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Stelling, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gutteridge of Broadway Villa, Petham, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Dorothy May Martin (formerly Gutteridge) of Mount Pleasant Cottages, Weald, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 85.
Walter is amongst those who are commemorated on the Chartham, Kent civic war memorial, that are erroneously recorded as being a native of Chatham, Kent, in/on 'Soldiers Died in the Great War.' At the time of the 1901 census, 6 year old Walter was residing at 3 Asylum Cottages, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent with his mother, 38 year old Emma Gutteridge, who was a native of Merton, Bedfordshire.
In addition to Walter, four younger children were also in residence on the night of the census. Arthur Gutteridge was on duty as an Asylum Attendant, at the nearby Kent County Lunatic Asylum, Chatham on the night of the 1901 census.

HOARE, HENRY. Private, G/9113.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 29 December 1916. Aged 22.
Born Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Henry and Annie Hoare of Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: VIII.B.1.

HOMEWOOD. C or G. No clear trace. When we photographed and wrote down the names of the casualties who are commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial it was a few years prior to its cleaning and restoration. As with many other primarily external forms of war commemoration elsewhere, it was difficult in some cases to distinguish the difference between casualties with the initial/s C and G. Only three CWGC commemorated casualties of the Great War have the initial C, two of whom have strong Kent connections. Only a single casualty has the initial G. At the time of the 1901 census, a branch of the Homewood family resided at Howfield Farm, Chartham, Kent, and amongst the eight children of 44 year old Farmer, Echuarc Homewood and his 39 year old wife Julia, was 14 year old George Homewood. All ten members of the Homewood family were natives of Smarden, Ashford, Kent. George is **possibly** the casualty who has been entered below, but for obvious reasons caution is advised regarding the accuracy of same. Unfortunately no family details were added on the following commemoration, and in/on SDGW, only George's place of enlistment is shown.

HOMEWOOD, GEORGE. Sapper, 2841.

1st Home Counties Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 28 October 1916.

Enlisted Brighton, Sussex.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 8 A and 8 D.

HORTON, CHARLES BERTRAM. Driver, 479.

Kent Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (Territorial Force).

Died 29 November 1914.

Born Herne Bay, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.

Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: Grave Ref: R. 32.

HORTON, JESSIE REGINALD. Private, T/203107.

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

Died Friday 12 October 1917. Aged 32.

Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Wye, Ashford, Kent.

Son of K. Horton, of Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.

Husband of Mrs. H Horton, of Withersdane, Wye, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 17, and on Great War memorial plaque located in the porch of the parish church of St. Gregory and St. Martin, Wye, Ashford, Kent, also on Great War memorial plaque at Wye Agricultural College, Ashford, Kent.

Jesse was in times past also commemorated on the Wye, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, but that is sadly no longer the case. **For far more details appertaining to the 'missing' names on the war memorial, please see the Wye, Ashford, Kent entry on this website, where a clear photograph of the memorial shows Jessie's name.** Prior to the commencement of the Great War Jesse served for five years in the regular army. His service papers indicate he served in the 1st and 2nd Battalion's, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) both of were regular battalions. Jesse left the army (time expired) in 1913, and went to work at the South East Agricultural College in Wye. Jesse was also a part time soldier in the Territorial Force 2/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) (probably serving in the Wye College Company). In 1916 Jesse was selected for active service overseas, and was drafted into the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Unfortunately Jesse was gassed in France whilst serving with the 1st Battalion, the gassing being severe enough to necessitate his evacuation back to the United Kingdom to recuperate in 1916. When he was deemed to be sufficiently recovered, Jesse went to Mesopotamia with the 5th Battalion of his regiment. On the day that Jesse was killed in action when he was shot in the head and died instantly, 55 Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, to which the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) to which he was then 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.

HUBBARD, ERNEST EDWARD. Private, G/20144.

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

Died 30 November 1917. Aged 21.

Born and resided Chartham. Enlisted Canterbury.

Son of Mrs. S.A. Hubbard, of The Exchange, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 3.

KITNEY, HERBERT GEORGE CLIFFORD. Private, 204069.

"B" Company, 6th (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

Died 28 March 1918. Aged 33 years.

Born Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Herne Bay, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Maurice and Francis Kitney of 16, West Parade, Hythe, Kent.

Husband of Mary Ann Kitney of 34, Agnes Maria Street, Coxlodge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.

Formerly Private, G/2221, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

LARKIN. A.D. No trace. Best match for this casualty is probably the following Kent soldier, who is regrettably numbered amongst those not commemorated on either the Kennington, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, or on the Boughton Aluph, civic war memorial, but he should have been on at least one of them.

LARKIN, ARTHUR. Private, 42584.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment.

Died 15 December 1917.

Born Kennington, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted Wath-On-Deerne, Rotherham, Yorkshire.

Buried Aeroplane Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. A. 28.

Place of birth as entered above, is as extracted from Arthur's SDGW entry. Checking the 1901 census shows his place of birth recorded as Boughton Lees, Ashford, Kent. His parents were entered by the census enumerator as being 34 year old Wickham, Kent native William Larkin, and

36 year old Rose Larkin from nearby Westwell, Ashford, Kent. The three eldest Larkin children were natives of Boughton Lees, two others of Kennington, and the youngest child was a native of Chilham, Kent, it being only a few miles from Chartham, Kent.

LUSCOMBE, WILLIAM H. Private, D/7245.
6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers).
Died 26 November 1918.
Buried Le Quesnoy Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: I.C.17.
Formerly Private, 32091, South Lancashire Regiment.

MANN. W. H. No clear trace.

MARTEN, CHARLES PETER. Lieutenant Colonel.
1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own).
Attached to and commanding the 18th (Service) Battalion, (Arts and Crafts), King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died 15 September 1916. Aged 36.
Son of Captain S.W. Marten (East Kent Militia) and Mrs. B.L. Marten of Shalmsford Bridge Manor, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Serre Road Cemetery No2, Somme, France. Grave Ref: XXXIV.1.1.
Educated at Tonbridge School and Clare College, Cambridge. Gazetted December 1901. Served with the Mohmand Expedition (1908).

MAYBOURNE, ERNEST EDWARD. Private, G/15.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 13 October 1915. Aged 21.
Born Staplehurst, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chatham, Kent
Son of Alfred and Ellen Maybourne.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15 to 19.
NB. Places of birth, enlistment and residency are as extracted from Ernest's SDGW entry, and as such his place of residence was initially thought to be an error by the transcriber of these brief transcriptions. After checking the 1901 census it revealed that Chatham, Kent, was originally entered by the enumerator as being Ernest's place of birth, but then struck through and Staplehurst, Kent entered instead. At the time of the above census, the Maybourne family resided at Heusden Farm, Ash, Sandwich, Kent where 35 year old Biddenden, Kent native was the Head of the house, and employed as the Farm Bailiff. It would seem likely that Ernest is one of the Chartham casualties, that have Chatham erroneously entered on various data, in his case possibly in/on SDGW.

MORRIS. W.T. As commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial is possibly the following 'Kent' casualty:-

MORRIS, WILLIAM THOMAS. Private, G/5425.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 18 August 1916. Aged 28.
Born and resided Lyminge, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent January 1915.
Son of George and Elizabeth Morris of Etchinghill, Folkestone, Kent.
Husband of Ethel Violet Morris, of 10 Gordon Road, Canterbury, Kent. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier & Face 5D, and on the Lyminge, Kent civic war memorial.

NORRIS, Frank. Private, L/7781.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 21 June 1915. Aged 35.
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Thomas and Mary Norris of The Cottage, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: B 16.

PERRY, WILLIAM JAMES. Private, L/7791.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 13 October 1915. Aged 32.
Born Hoath, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Molash, Ashford, Kent.
Son of Mr. J.E. and Mrs. J. Perry of 4 Fern Cottages, Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15 to 19, and on the Molash, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.

SERGEANT, JOHN. Private, G/7932.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 23 February 1916.
Born Rye, Sussex. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15 to 19

SHERWOOD, ALBERT WILLIAM. Rifleman, 593445.
18th (County of London) Battalion, (London Irish) London Regiment.
Died 23 April 1918.
Born Petham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Valenciennes (St. Roth) Communal Cemetery, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: V.A.2.

SHORTER, EDWARD GEORGE. Private, L/9570.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 May 1915.
Born Byfleet, Hampshire. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Panel 12 and 14.

SWAN. E. No clear trace.

TAYLOR, FREDERICK GEORGE. Private, G/8878.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 July 1916. Aged 24.
Born and resided Chartham. Enlisted Canterbury.
Son of Henry William and Mary Taylor, of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier & Face 5D.

THEOBALD, ALFRED WILLIAM. Private, 62834.
92nd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.
Died 12 July 1917. Aged 20.
Born Great Warley, Essex. Enlisted Kentish Town, London.
Son of Alfred George and Alice Theobald of Thruxted Farm, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Coxyde Military Cemetery, Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: I.E.40.
A brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

THEOBALD, GEORGE HERBERT. Private, 33806.
7th (Service) Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).
Died 12 October 1918. Aged 19.
Born Warley, Brentwood, Essex. Enlisted Scarborough, Yorkshire. Resided Chatham, Kent.
Son of Alfred George Theobald of Thruxted Farm, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: III. F. 10.
Formerly Private, 67543, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

TWYMAN, GEORGE WILLIAM. Corporal, 1975.
Household Battalion.
Died 23 December 1917. Aged 33.
Born and enlisted Canterbury.
Husband of Alice Twyman of 3, Camden Terrace, St. Peter's Place, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: V.D.53.
Formerly Sergeant, 2847, Royal East Kent Yeomanry.
The Household Battalion to which George belonged was formed from personnel of the Household Cavalry Reserve Regiments at Knightsbridge Barracks, London. It was formed on 1 September 1916, and fought as infantry until being disbanded on 10 February 1918.

WATSON, HUGH BOURNE. Sergeant, G/13680.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 18 September 1918.
Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Epehy Wood Farm Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: IV.B.5.

WHITE, JAMES. Private, L/10022.
2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 17 November 1914.
Born enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Brompton, Cemetery, Fulham Road, London. SW10 9UG.
Grave Ref: N.172707. (near Edwin Frisby).

WHITEBREAD, ARTHUR WILLIAM. Private, 42035.
7th (Service) Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment.
Died 3 July 1918. Aged 20.
Born Mayfield, Sussex. Enlisted London. Resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of John James and Sarah Jane Whitebread of Primrose Hill. Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Hessen, Germany. Grave Ref: I.K.4.
Formerly Private, 10964, Royal Flying Corps.

WRENCH, GEORGE. Private, G/5178.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 14 March 1915. Aged 33.
Born Bedford, Bedfordshire. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Lily Wrench of 2, Horton Cottages, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: F. 45.

Lost Men

ARROWSMITH, GEORGE FREDERICK JOHN.

Air Mechanic 2nd Class, 225615.

Experimental Workshops (Battersea), Royal Air Force.

Died 9 November 1918. Aged 29.

Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of William Arrowsmith of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Husband of Winifred Maud Arrowsmith of 4, Hendon Cottages, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Chilham (St. Mary) Churchyard, Kent. Grave Ref: North-West corner.

Commemorated on the Chilham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census the Arrowsmith family resided at 7 Asylum Cottages, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

BALDOCK, WILLIAM CHARLES. Private, G/4916.

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

Died 3 May 1917. Aged 29.

Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided St. Nicholas at Wade, Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of John Henry and Eliza Baldock of Brook Cottage, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Nicholas at Wade, Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

BURNAP, EDWARD. Private, G/4575,

"C" Company, 8th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 13 August 1917. Aged 38.

Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Husband of Emily E. Burnap of 46, Wincheap Street, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref. VI. D. 9.

At the time of the 1881 census, Edward and his family resided at 7 Asylum Cottages, Chartham Downs, Canterbury, Kent which is also where Edward was probably born.



BUSTIN, WILLIAM THOMS. Pioneer, WR/42413.
Railway Troops (Engineering), Royal Engineers.
Died 27 October 1919.

Born St. Aldate's, Oxford, Oxfordshire. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent 25 May 1916. Resided Harlesden, NW10.

Son of Thomas Edward and Charlotte Bustin.

Husband of Sarah Emily Bustin (née Gardner).

Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: D. 34.

Formerly Private, G/65496, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), Private, G/39968, Middlesex Regiment, and Private, 33617, No. 587 (Home Service) Employment Company, Labour Corps. At the time of the 1901 census the Bustin family resided at 33, Buckinghamshire Road, St. Aldate's, Oxford, Oxfordshire, and both William and his father were recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as College Servants. When William enlisted he named his wife Sarah Emily Bustin, residing at 46, Dudley Road, Folkestone, Kent as his next of kin, who he had married at Folkestone, Kent on 20 July 1915. William served three periods of time in France during the Great War and following the cessation of hostilities, they being from 25 January 1915 to 6 December 1917, from 18 April to 25 May 1918, and from 25 November 1918 to 20 March 1919. During his times spent in France William had suffered attacks of Fever, which the Medical Superintendent at the Kent County Mental Asylum, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent, where William died, stated that in his opinion the attacks had contributed to William's death, due to General Cardio Vascular Degeneration and Pneumonia. The Medical Superintendent added that the cause of William's death was directly attributable to war service. William's home address at the time of his death was 13a, Spezia Road, Harlesden, London, Middlesex, NW10.

DOWNES, WILFRED HAROLD. Private, G/6053.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 8 April 1917. Aged 21.

Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Bray Military Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme, France. Grave Ref: II. H. 44.

FRISBY, ALFRED. Private, L/13193.

Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Attached to the British Delegation, Inter Allied Military Commission in Austria.

Died 19 July 1920.

Born Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Alfred Frisby of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Klagenfurt War Cemetery, Wörthersee, Carinthia, Austria.

Grave Ref: VIII. D. 11.

Alfred was originally buried in Baumgarten Cemetery, Vienna, Austria. Between 1950 and 1954, eight Great War graves (three of them unidentified) were moved into Klagenfurt War Cemetery from small cemeteries at Innsbruck, Mauthausen, Mühldorf, and Vienna. At the same time, special memorials were erected to two other Great War casualties whose graves at Mühldorf, and Vienna could not be found. Lance Corporal Edwin Frisby who is commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial was a brother of Alfred.

HALLIDAY, WALTER. Lance Corporal, G/6363.
"B" Company, 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 18 May 1916. Aged 32. (please see below).
Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of the late Charles and Elizabeth Halliday.
Husband of Bessie E. Sloggett (formerly Halliday), of 7, Leopold Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref. VI. D. 39.

Walter's place of birth as shown above was as at his SDGW entry, but his CWGC commemoration shows him to have been a native of Sturry, Kent. Checking the 1901 census showed 14 year old Walter employed as a Mill Boy, and as having been born at Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. At the time of the census, the Halliday family resided at Canterbury Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. As Walter's birth was registered in the last quarter of 1887, it would also appear that his age as shown on his CWGC commemoration is also erroneous.

HARLOW, H. Private, 27538.
59th Protection Company, Royal Defence Corps.
Died 19 March 1919.
Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: R. 22.

SAVAGE, HENRY JAMES. Private, M2/133499.
Army Service Corps.
Died 21 January 1918. Aged 32.
Husband of Louisa Savage of 186, Mount Pleasant Road, Hastings, Sussex.
Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: C. 50.

YOU DEN, REGINALD J.C. Private, L/9794.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 24 May 1916.
Son of James W. and Ellen Youden of "Rosedene," Canterbury Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Richmond Cemetery, Surrey. Grave Ref: Z. 5935.
Commemorated on the Elham, Kent civic war memorial.



The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Unlike the casualties of the Great War who are commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial, that as can be seen are divided by their serving in the Royal Navy/Royal Marines, or Army. The Second World War casualties are commemorated in alphabetical order irrespective of which service.

BALLARD, PHILIP SIDNEY.

Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), 1258728.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 50 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Sunday 22 February 1942.

Son of Harry and Mary Ballard of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: Row G.58.

Philip had been a crew member of the Hampden bomber AE394 VN-M which took off from R.A.F. Skellingthorpe, Lincolnshire, on the night of 21 February 1942 to take part in a raid on Koblenz, Germany. Having survived the attention of enemy defenders over Germany, the bomber ran out of fuel on the return leg of the journey, and the order to bale out was given. Tragically, one of the lower escape hatches jammed, trapping at least two of the crew. At 0218 the Hampden crashed near the Rowntree's theatre in York, Yorkshire, killing three of the aircraft's crew. Sergeant Francis Law from Rock, Worcestershire, and Sergeant Hector Thompson from Croydon, Surrey, who perished with Philip are at rest together in a joint grave, at Thurlby (St. Germain) Churchyard, Bourne, Lincolnshire, which contains a small war graves plot of 30 Second World War burials, all of them airmen.

BELLAMY, ARTHUR GEORGE OLIVER.

Flight Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1808099.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 190 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Thursday 21 September 1944. Aged 20.

Son of Oliver James and Mabel Bellamy of Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Ravenstein Roman Catholic Cemetery, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands. Grave Ref: 2.

Purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but in view of where Arthur is at rest to the south-west of Nijmegen, Holland, and also the date of his death, it would appear to indicate that Arthur was numbered amongst those members of his squadron who died during supply drops at Arnhem, Holland, in support of 'Operation Market Garden.' Flying from R.A.F. Fairford, Gloucestershire, 190 Squadron, Royal Air Force suffered the loss of ten of its Short Stirling aircraft over just a four day period, during the 'Operation Market Garden' supply flights.

BRICE, STANLEY FITZGERALD. Lance Corporal, 6284650.

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

Died Saturday 25 May 1940.

Born and resided Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Albert Edward and Mary Brice of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: Row F. Grave 60.

BRITT, JAMES. Fireman & Trimmer.
Merchant Navy, "SS Hamla" (London).
Died Tuesday 18 August 1942. Aged 19.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 54.

It would appear that like numerous wartime deaths at sea of most nations, that of James's appears to be an estimated date of death as shown above. After checking various data sources, the following details appertaining to the loss of the "SS Hamla" are probably correct. Completed in 1929 by J. Readhead & Sons Ltd of South Shields, the 4,416 ton Steam Freighter was owned by F.C. Strick & Co Ltd, of London. Commanded by 40 year old Captain William Ashley Shute O.B.E., from Plympton, Devon, the SS Hamla laden with a cargo of Manganese ore, sailed from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil en-route for Great Britain, via Freetown, Jamaica on 11 August 1942, with a crew of 38, and four D.E.M.S gunners. The unescorted ship was lost with all hands after being torpedoed twice at 2337 hours on 23 August 1942. "SS Hamla" was hit by torpedoes fired from the German u-boat U-506 which was commanded by the 28 year old German 'u-boat ace' Kapitänleutnant Erich Würdemann, when the vessels were south of Freetown. Kapitänleutnant Würdemann observed two hits under the ships bridge and the aft mast, and shortly after the explosions the vessel sank. The U-506 left Lorient on 28 July 1942, and after fourteen and a half weeks arrived back at the port on 7 November 1942, during which time Erich Würdemann hit five ships.

CLOVER, JACK. Private, S/80038.
46 Field Butchery, Royal Army Service Corps.
Died 24 February 1946. Aged 27.
Born London. Resided East London.
Son of Sidney and Margaret Clover.
Husband of Josephine Clover, of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: Row N. Grave 58.

COOMBER, RONALD HAROLD. Sergeant, 812107.
500 (County of Kent) (Auxiliary Air Force) Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Friday 10 October 1941. Aged 20.
Son of John and Edith Coomber of Harrietsham, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 41.
500 Squadron was formed at Manston, Kent on 16 March 1931 as a Special Reserve unit, but on 25 May 1936 it had been transferred from the Special Reserve to the Auxiliary Air Force. On 7 November 1938 the squadron was transferred to Coastal Command, Royal Air Force, and equipped with Avro Ansons in March 1939. Shortly before the commencement of the Second World War, Ronald's squadron was mobilised, and began flying patrols over the English Channel and the North Sea. In April 1941 conversion to Blenheims took place and these were used for reconnaissance, patrols and bombing raids on enemy coastal targets. It was as a crew member of a Blenheim IV, No. V6171 MK-F based at R.A.F. Bircham Newton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, that Ronald lost his life. Flown by 28 year old Flying Officer (Pilot) Charles C.G. Webb, of Timaru, Canterbury, New Zealand, the Blenheim took off from R.A.F. Bircham Newton at 2145 hours to undertake a 'Nomad Patrol' over the North Sea. Off Overstrand, 2 miles south east of Cromer, Norfolk, the aircraft crashed into the sea killing all the three crew. Charles Webb was recovered from the North Sea, and laid to rest at Great Yarmouth (Caister) Cemetery, Norfolk. Ronald, and the other member of the Blenheim's crew, 31 year old Flight Sergeant Robert C. Roberts R.C.A.F. of St. Lambert, Province of Quebec, Canada, were not found and both are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Robert is also commemorated on page 42 of the Canadian Second World War Book of Remembrance.

DANIELS, FREDERICK CHARLES. Aircraftman 1st Class, 636364.
Royal Air Force.
Died Monday 23 September 1940. Aged 20.
Son of Arthur and Fanny Daniels of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref:
Row G. Grave 54.

DATLEN, VICTOR ALLAN. Gunner, 941186.
85 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. (Territorial Army).
Died Thursday 23 November 1943. Aged 24.
Born Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of William Arthur and Mabel Datlen, of Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand. Grave Ref: 2.Q.15.
Having been part of Malaya Command since November 1941, the 85 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery was captured in February 1942 during the fall of Singapore. Like Victor other members of his Anti-Tank Regiment also perished during the construction of the notorious Burma-Siam railway, was a Japanese project driven by the need for improved communications to support the large Japanese army in Burma. Built by Commonwealth, Dutch and American prisoners of war, during its construction, approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died and were buried along the railway. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 civilians also died in the course of the project. Other gunners from the 85 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery died at other locations, whilst prisoners of the Imperial Japanese, including those lost on 21 September 1944 whilst aboard the Hofuku Maru which was sunk by forty aircraft from American Aircraft Carrier, approximately 80 miles north of Corregidor, whilst transporting almost 1,300 prisoners of war, of whom at least 1,047 are known to have perished.

DIXON, ROBERT. Sergeant (Flight Engineer), 1605828.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 178 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Monday 21 August 1944. Aged 20.
Son of George Robert and Eliza Ann Dixon of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Klagenfurt War Cemetery, Carinthia Province, Austria.
Grave Ref: Collective Grave 5.B.6.

DUNNELL, WALTER HAROLD. Private, 6300796.
2nd/7th The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died Sunday 3 October 1943. Aged 19.
Born and resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Ernest Joseph and Annie Dunnell of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Salerno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave V.E.37.
Formerly Private, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Walter lost his life on the first day of the 'Operation Avalanche' amphibious landings at Salerno, Italy.

FULLER, CYRIL LESLIE. Private, 14551743.
1/4th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.
Died Thursday 9 November 1944. Aged 19.
Born Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Reginald and Alice Rose Fuller of Nickle, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Meldona War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: I.B.2.

HAYES, GEORGE WILLIAM. Private, 6294685.
1/4th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.
Died Wednesday 29 November 1944. Aged 33.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of George Douglas Hayes and Nora Hayes of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Coriano Ridge War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XV.F.2.
Formerly Private, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

HINDER, ALFRED. Private, 6286943.
4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died at sea 23/24 October 1943. Aged 27.
Born and resided Canterbury.
Husband of Joan Hinder of Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Athens Memorial, Greece. Face 5.
Pre war member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
On 23 October 1943, Alfred's battalion was rushed to the docks at Alexandria, Egypt and boarded two destroyers, they being H.M.S. Petard (of Enigma fame) and H.M.S. Eclipse, the latter being a 1405 ton Royal Navy E class destroyer, commanded by Commander E. Mack, D.S.O, D.S.C, R.N. After taking the soldiers and their equipment aboard, both of the destroyers departed at speed heading for the beleaguered island of Leros, Greece, and were in fact the last infantry battalion to be sent to bolster the island's defences, by which time the neighbouring island of Kos having already fallen to the Germans. At around midnight when she was off the island of Kalymnos, Greece, H.M.S. Eclipse carrying the Mortar Platoon, "A" Company and part of the H.Q. Company, of 4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), detonated a mine under her forward boiler room, instantaneously setting the ships fuel tanks ablaze. Following the explosion H.M.S. Eclipse immediately took on a heavy list and broke in two, spilling burning fuel into the sea, and within three minutes she sank. There was sadly a heavy loss of life resultant from her sinking, of the 200 Buffs on board 135 perished, along with an approximately equal number of naval personnel. Despite being engaged in numerous actions during the Second World War, the sinking of H.M.S. Eclipse on the night of 23/24 October 1943, resulted in the largest loss of life amongst the 4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) on any given date throughout the duration of the Second World War, most of whom are commemorated on the Athens Memorial, Greece.

McGEE, WILLIAM. Private, 640966.
The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Tuesday 16 March 1943.
Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: Row G. Grave 60.
William's army number is indicative of him originally served in a cavalry regiment.

HOARE. J. F. No Trace

HOLLINGSBEE, VICTOR CHARLES. Corporal, 6286585.
4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died at sea 23/24 October 1943. Aged 23 years.
Son of Horace and Bertha Hollingsbee.
Born Northampton. Resided Kent.
Commemorated on the Athens Memorial, Greece. Face 4.
Pre war member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Please see the brief commemoration of Alfred Hinder, re 4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) casualties on the night of 23/24 October 1943.

HUBBARD, JAMES WILLIAM. Sergeant (Pilot), 551931.
Royal Air Force.
Died Sunday 7 December 1941. Aged 20.
Son of James Arthur and Mabel Hubbard of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref:
Row G Grave 57.

JURY, EDWARD FRANCES. Driver, T/244001.
Royal Army Service Corps.
Died Tuesday 17 November 1942.
Born and resided Kent.
Buried Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Grave Ref: 4.G.8.

KNOTT, WALTER HENRY. Driver, 2137894.
20 Bridging Platoon, Royal Engineers.
Died Tuesday 21 November 1944. Aged 39.
Born and resided Croydon, Surrey.
Son of Charles and Emily Jane Knott of Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Hilda Dorothy Blanche Knott of Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Meldona War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: I.D.18.

MANKTELOW, ROBERT ERIC EUSTACE. Flight Sergeant (Pilot), 1257893.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 272 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Saturday 4 November 1944. Aged 23.
Son of Robert and Lillian Manktelow of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Bari War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XI.A.19.
At the time of Robert's death, his Coastal Command squadron was based at Falconara having moved to Italy in September 1944, to carry out attacks around the Adriatic coasts.

FRAZER-SMITH H.R. As commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial is possibly the following 'Kent' casualty:-

SMITH, HERBERT ROBERT FRASER.
Engine Room Artificer 2nd Class, C/M 38794.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Kittiwake. (L30).
Died 20 September 1939. Aged 30.
Son of Walter Ernest and Gertrude Elisabeth Smith.
Husband of Lily Agnes Smith of Canterbury, Kent.
Buried St. James's Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: Row E. Joint grave 7.
It would seem likely that Herbert's birth was registered in the Islington area of Greater London in the second quarter of 1909. At 1900 hours on 20 September 1939 H.M.S. Kittiwake commanded by Commander E.R. Conder, R.N. was damaged by a mine, which had been laid on 10 September 1939 by the German u-boat U-26, near the Shambles Light vessel. Herbert was one of five members of the ships crew that died when the mine was detonated. Commander of the U-26 when Herbert died was 32 year old Klaus Ewerth, who perished on 20 December 1943, when the U-850 which he then commanded was lost with all 66 hands, after being attacked in the mid-Atlantic west of Madeira, Portugal, by American aircraft.

MILES A. As commemorated on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial is possibly the following 'Kent' casualty:-

MILES, ARTHUR GEORGE. Bombadier, 1032404.
148 (The Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. (T.A.)
Died Tuesday 21 September 1943. Aged 41.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Henry William and Sarah Jane Miles of Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Husband of Eliza Winifred Miles of Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Chungkai War Cemetery, Kanchanaburi, Thailand. Grave Ref: 1.N.7.

As part of the 18th Infantry Division, the 148 (The Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery was captured in February 1942 during the fall of Singapore, having arrived from Bombay, India only the month previously. The graves of those who died during the construction and maintenance of the Burma-Siam railway (except for the Americans, whose remains were repatriated), were transferred from the various camp burial grounds, and isolated sites along the railway into three cemeteries at Chungkai and Kanchanaburi in Thailand and Thanbyuzayat in Burma (now Myanmar). Chungkai was one of the base camps on the railway and contained a hospital and church built by Allied prisoners of war. The war cemetery is the original burial ground started by the prisoners themselves, and the burials are mostly of men who died at the hospital.

ROGERS, ERNEST ALBERT. Private, 6289036.

The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).

Died between Friday 10 May 1940 & Sunday 23 June 1940. Aged 21.

Born and resided Canterbury.

Son of Albert and Ellen Mary Rogers, of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried St. Hilaire-De-Riez Communal Cemetery, Vendée, France. Grave Ref: 6.

STARR, D. No clear trace. Only two Second World War CWGC commemorated casualties match this casualty, both of whom were members of the British army. Neither soldier had any accessed connections which would obviously warrant inclusion on the Chartham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial. Thirty additional Second World War casualties are also commemorated the CWGC, and they too have been checked but with nil matching results. Possibly the casualty commemorated died post 31 December 1947, it being the cut-off date for Second World War related deaths by the then IWGC. Obvious alternate explanations being that he or she had served in the armed forces under an alias, or is a casualty who is numbered amongst the thousands from both the world wars still sadly not commemorated by the CWGC. As we are trying desperately to rectify the latter situation where applicable to Kent (and elsewhere) casualties, D. Starr will be investigated more fully for possible belated official commemoration.

TOMLIN, HARRY RAYMOND. Petty Officer (Supply), C/MX 57949.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Blean. (L47).

Died Friday 11 December 1942. Aged 22.

Son of Harry and Celia Tomlin of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 64, Column 1.

When Harry's Hunt (Type III) class, Escort destroyer was lost on the day that he died H.M.S. Blean, commanded by Lieutenant Norman J. Parker, R.N, was virtually brand new, having been commissioned on 23 August 1943, having been built by Hawthorn Leslie & Co. of Hebburn-on-Tyne. When she was in convoy KMF-4, approximately sixty nautical miles west of Oran, Algeria, H.M.S. Blean was torpedoed and sunk by a torpedo fired from the German u-boat U-443, which was commanded by 25 year old Oberleutnant zur See, Konstantin von Puttkamer. Following the sinking, the earliest Admiralty reports indicated that 6 lives had been lost, but eventually it was confirmed that 89 members of the crew of H.M.S. Blean had perished. Harry's ship was the third of the four vessels sunk by Konstantin von Puttkamer, the other three being Merchantmen. Having been promoted to the rank of Kapitänleutnant on 1 February 1943, Konstantin von Puttkamer, and all the other 47 members of his crew died when the U-443 was sunk on 23 February 1943, in the Mediterranean off the coast of Algiers, by depth charges dropped from three Royal Navy escort destroyers.

WHITE, E.R. The transcriber of these brief commemorations incorrectly identified this casualty, prior to the Chartham civic war memorial transcriptions originally being posted on this website, which regrettably resulted in the wrong casualty being shown. Fortunately Mrs. Valerie Strickland (née White), who is the daughter of the correct man spotted the error. In addition to tactfully and politely pointing out the unfortunate mistake which had been made, she has also very kindly provided the bulk of the following information, for which needless to say we, and doubtless others are very much indebted to her.

WHITE, EDWARD REGINALD GEORGE. Sergeant, CH/X 1094.

Royal Marines, H.M.S. Curacoa.

Died Friday 2 October 1942. Aged 25.

Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Edward Charles Richard and Muriel Ethelwynne White (néé Youden).

Husband of Evelyn White (néé Hancock) of Gillingham, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 65, Column 2.

Edward was born and grew up in Chartham, residing at 5, Rattington Street, next to the Artichoke Inn. Amongst the information and data furnished by Edward's daughter, was an obituary from the 'Kentish Gazette' dated 7 November 1942, which follows verbatim-"It is with deep regret we have to record the death at sea through enemy action of Sergt-Major Reginald White, at the early age of 22. He was the eldest son of the late Edward White of Chartham, and of Mrs. White, now residing in London. He attended the Council School in the village. He was employed at the age of 14 by Mr. F. Cooper, at Perry Court, and remained with him until he gave up the poultry farm three-and-a-half years later. He then joined the Royal Marines and had seen active service in Spain and Palestine, for which he received a medal. He held the record for being the youngest Sergt-Major in the Corps. In March, 1940, he married Evelyn, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hancock of Deal, Kent, and much sympathy is extended to the widow and his little daughter Valerie, now residing in Gillingham. He was respected by all who knew him. His father had served 22 years in the Royal Navy, and on retirement on pension, worked at Chartham Paper Mills until his death five and a half years ago. A brother is serving in the Merchant Navy, and he has had some narrow escapes at sea, and the youngest sister is in the W.A.A.F. It is a sad end to a promising career." Edward had served for five years on Admiral's Flag ships staff in the Mediterranean before being drafted to Chatham, and then to H.M.S. Curacoa. Doubtless war time restrictions resulted in Edward's obituary in the 'Kentish Gazette' showing that his death was "through enemy action" as that is not strictly correct. H.M.S. Curacoa was a 4190 ton Ceres class light cruiser which was launched on 5 May 1917, and commissioned on 18 February 1918. She was refitted and rearmed as an Anti-Aircraft cruiser from August 1939 until April 1940. At the time of her loss H.M.S. Curacoa was engaged in convoy escort duties in close attendance with the liner Queen Mary, which at the time was in use as a troopship and carrying over 10,000 American 29th Division troops across the Atlantic to train in the United Kingdom in preparation for D-Day. While both ships were zigzagging, H.M.S. Curacoa, commanded by Captain J. W. Boutwood, D.S.O., R.N, crossed the Queen Mary's bow with insufficient clearance when both vessels were off Donegal, Ireland heading for the River Clyde. The Queen Mary sliced into her at a speed of 28 knots cutting the light cruiser in two, which then separated by about 100 yards, and sank instantly. Despite the impact of the collision, the Queen Mary did not falter or slow down for fear of attack by German submarines, although she had a 40 foot gash in her bow resultant of the collision. Captain Cyril Gordon Illingworth, who was the Master of the Queen Mary, was under strict orders to not stop for any reason, but the ships crew and the American soldiers onboard threw lifebelts to the men who were struggling in the water, which undoubtedly saved many lives. 102 officers and ratings were picked up by a number of other vessels which were also in close attendance escorting the Queen Mary. Amongst those who fortunately survived the tragedy was the commander of H.M.S. Curacoa.

WIFFEN, RAYMOND STEWART. Private, 5878871.

12th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died Saturday 1 June 1940. Aged 35.

Born and resided Canterbury.

Son of Alfred and Caroline Wiffen.

Husband of Bessie Wiffen of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Column 144.

Pre war member of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

WHYLES, FREDERICK BERNARD HORCE. Private, 317565.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died Tuesday 12 September 1944. Aged 28.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Wyles.
Husband of Laura May Wyles of Chilham, Kent.
Buried Grenada War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: II.F.65.
Frederick is also commemorated on the village war memorial at nearby Chilham. Frederick's army number is indicative of him originally served in a cavalry regiment.

GURR, ALFRED HENRY. Corporal, CH/X 3462.
Royal Marines. H.M.L.C.G. (L) 9.
Died Saturday 24 June 1944. Aged 24.
Son of Alfred and Matilda Gurr.
Husband of Rena Betty Eugenia Gurr of Gillingham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 79, Column 1.

Lost Persons

BARTON, FRANK WILLIAM. Aircraftman 2nd Class, 1220064.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 12 September 1946. Aged 40.
Son of John Henry and Hannah Louisa Flora Barton.
Husband of Marie Joyce Barton of Clowne, Derbyshire.
Buried Chartham Cemetery, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 7NY. Grave Ref: Row G. Grave 63.

SMITH, LILIAN MAY EVA.
Died Monday 1 June 1942. Aged 31.
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Bishop of 1 Primrose Hill Cottages, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Wife of Henry Edward Smith of 14 New Ruttington Lane, Canterbury, Kent.
Lilian died at Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.

SMITH, PHYLLIS SOPHIA.
Died Friday 31 October 1942. Aged 11.
Daughter of Henry Edward and Lilian Eva Smith of 5, Primrose Hill Cottages, Chartham Hatch, Canterbury, Kent.
Phyllis was killed by enemy action at Watling Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent, and as such it seems odd that she is not commemorated on the Chartham civic war memorial. Perhaps in the fullness of time Phyllis and the other non-commemorated Chartham parishioners