

DOVER

Holy Trinity Hall

Dover

Kent

The Great War

1914 – 1919

This Hall was built in memory of the men and others connected with it who fought and fell in the Great War.

“Whoso loseth his life shall save it.”

Unfortunately the Holy Trinity Memorial Hall had to be demolished when the A20 main trunk road was extended. Quite literally days before the removal of the memorial, the transcriber was kindly allowed access to same and at that time learned that the memorial was being moved to a Dover church. Sincere thanks are extended to Mr Seamus Dougherty and Mr Carson Castle for kindly allowing, both access at Holy Trinity Memorial Hall, and in also providing the information regarding the then intended memorial fate. For anybody having viewed the earlier transcriptions, and kind comments received following same, please see additional data below which was added as promised in 2003, which might be of help or interest to the ‘Dover’ researchers who made contact.

Roll of Honour

ADLEY, SIDNEY. Private, G/19391.

7th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Died 21 September 1918.

Buried Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref. XVIA. B. 12.

Also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial on which Sidney is shown with his surname spelt **ADDLEY**, but all other basic data accessed to compile this brief commemoration including CWGC, SDGW, MIC entry and his regiments Roll of Honour, all show Sidney’s surname as being **ADLEY**. For the three days leading up to the day Sidney lost his life, is shown in the history of the 18th (Eastern) Division, (which included Sidney’s battalion), thus “There was scarcely a moment during these days of 18th, 19th and 20th September when our men were not facing a desperate and skilful enemy at close quarters, and amid every form of difficulty, showing a steadiness and courage that this record can do little more than barely indicate.” The author was making reference to time spent at the ‘Hindenburg Line’ where the much depleted division was pitted against a numerically superior force of picked enemy soldiers that had been

ordered to hold their positions at all costs. In view of where Sidney is buried it is obvious that he had not been with his battalion during the days immediately prior to the attack on the day he died. O/SDGW although a very useful research tool either in book form, and more in recent years on CD, as a matter of course unless a death certificate or similar has been personally sighted we usually record a casualty as died as opposed to that shown on O/SDGW, the reason being that countless times over the years, it has been noted that certificated and the O/SDGW do not always match, regarding cause of death, but it was interesting to see that Sidney is shown as died, as opposed to killed in action or similar.

ARNOLD, WILLIAM JOHN. Able Seaman.

Mercantile Marine. S.S. "Achille Adam" (London).

Died 23 March 1917. Aged 27.

Son of Edward Richard and Elizabeth Hannah Arnold of 13 Bulwark Street, Dover, Kent. Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London, and on the South Eastern and Chatham Railway war memorial, at the former Marine Station, Dover, Kent, also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial. William was amongst six lost when his 460 ton ship built in 1886, was captured by the German coastal minelayer submarine UC-66 commanded by Herbert Pustkuchen off the French coast at a position approximately 30 nautical miles due south of Beachy Head, Sussex, and was sunk by bombs. Four of those lost are commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial. It would appear that the deaths of the crew were due to exposure as opposed to the actual sinking of the ship. It is thought that the UC-66 was probably later lost with all the submarines twenty three crew on 12 June 1917, having been forced to dive by H.M.T. "Sea King." After being depth charged, it is suspected that the submarine finally blew up from an internal explosion of her own mines still on board whilst submerged.

AUSTIN, E W.

Former Stevedore Edward William Austin, Stoker 1st Class, K/242 was born at Dover, Kent on 1 August 1889, and appeared to be an obvious possibility for the casualty commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial. After purchasing a copy of his service papers it was revealed that fortunately Edward had survived the Great War. He had enlisted on 11 February 1908 for a 12 year engagement, upon completion of which he then enlisted in the Royal Fleet Reserve on 20 January 1920. The following appears to be the best match so far found, but caution is advised for anybody viewing same who is carrying out more detailed research on this casualty or those on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial at some time in the future, as the casualty is not in truth a good match. This casualty is also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

AUSTIN, ERNEST WILLIAM. Able Seaman, J/59464.

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

Died 1 October 1918. Aged 26.

Born Clanfield, Oxfordshire 30 December 1892.

Husband of Gladys Mildred Austin of Wheeler's Farm, Clanfield, Oxfordshire.

Buried Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery, Malta G.C. Grave Ref: Protestant 389.

BARBER, GEORGE JONATHAN. Private, 32552.

8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died 12 October 1917. Aged 29.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Waterford, Ireland.

Son of Ellis and Caroline Barber of Buckland Farm, Dover, Kent.

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

Panel 79, and on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly 32902, Private, 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own).

It would appear that George was unfortunately numbered amongst the 85 other ranks deaths suffered by his battalion on the day he lost his life. At 0300 hours on the morning of 10 October 1917, a warning order was issued to the battalions which made up the 55th Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, one of which was the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, which at the time was located at Dirty Bucket Camp near Vlamertinghe, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. The order was in respect of a move to be made that night by the brigade to relieve the 32nd Brigade in the front line near the village of Poelcapelle, which is about six miles to the north east of Ieper (Ypres). Having carried out the planned relief the brigade was to carry out an attack on 12 October, but as on other occasions in time of war, all did not go according to plan. Arrangements were put in place for a number of guides to meet George's battalion at the Steenbeek, near Verna Farm and lead it to the 32nd Brigade position near Poelcapelle. It was planned for the first of the battalion's platoon's to arrive at their Battalion Headquarters at approximately 2130 hours on 11 October, but it did not arrive there until just before 0400 hours on the morning of the following day, by which time the battalion's officers and other ranks (heavily laden) were absolutely exhausted. A major contributory factor in the 'awry timing disaster' was that of the number of guides which had been expected from the 32nd Brigade, only one was sent, and he had unfortunately got lost. It is clear when reading about the attack by George's battalion that there were a number of significant factors not in its favour, the exhausted state of the soldiers has been toughed on, but when the battalion commenced the assault at 0535 hours on its allotted objectives, the supporting artillery fire was irregular, and had commenced at zero hour minus four minutes, not only was the barrage insufficient as it moved forward at a rate of fifty yards every four minutes, it had opened up on targets too far forward of what was required for proper infantry support, in doing so a number of important enemy positions were left unscathed by the shelling, with several machine gun posts situated between the battalion front line and its objectives. A stream called the Lekkerboterbeek which was normally about six feet wide was indistinguishable from the ground through which it normally meandered due to the constant shelling in the area; as such the whole area was simply a marshland waste. Although the artillery barrage that the battalion followed would not have been overly fast in different and less trying conditions, it proved impossible to maintain even a semblance of sufficient speed on the part of the infantrymen following in its wake. To compound the problems faced by George's battalion was the weather which prevailed at the time, with rain adding to the quagmire to be traversed. Those soldiers unfortunate enough to be carrying the Lewis guns and their ammunition bags were particularly affected by the ground underfoot and simply got stuck in the glutinous mud, due to the weight of the load carried that they had to carry, which resulted in them being particularly easy targets for the enemy machine gunners. As the men changed the ammunition clips

when reloading their rifles, inevitably mud went in with each clip which resulted in the breaches having to be cleaned after each magazine was used and all whilst under fire from the opposing German soldiers. A detailed report covering the battalion's casualties from 10 September to 14 September showed 231 all ranks, inclusive of killed, wounded and missing, most of the casualties occurred on the day that Dover native George Barber lost his life.

BERRY, WILLIAM JAMES. Able Seaman, J/11168.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. Pembroke.

Died 14 1916. Aged 22.

Born Sydenham, Kent 7 October 1893.

Son of Mrs. A. K. Walker (formerly Berry) of 31, Limekiln Street Dover, Kent and the late S. Berry.

Buried St. Mary's New Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: E. 1. 23.

Also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

Originally enlisted as a Boy Sailor in the Royal Navy. Before going to the land based H.M.S. Pembroke at Chatham, Kent, William had served aboard the 940 ton Beagle class destroyer H.M.S. Grampus, which had originally been named H.M.S. Nautilus when she was commissioned on 30 March 1910, she was renamed H.M.S. Grampus on 16 December 1913.

BLIGH, WILLIAM VICTOR. Stoker 1st Class, K/3614.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. Wallington.

Died 24 February 1919. Aged 28.

Born Dover, Kent 8 December 1890.

Buried St. Mary's New Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: J. H. 9.

Also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

William's ship was a 2,575 ton Pearl class cruiser that was launched on 5 February 1880 and named H.M.S. Persian, she was later renamed H.M.S. Wallaroo before becoming H.M.S. Wallington. In 1920 prior to her being scrapped surplus to peacetime requirements she reverted to her original name.

BRAND, Benjamin J. Serjeant, S/32.

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

Died 26 September 1915. Aged 42.

Born St. John's, Chatham, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Gravesend, Kent.

Son of Benjamin John and Ellen Brand of 30, Oxenden Street, Dover, Kent.

Husband of the late Maggie Brand.

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

Grave Ref: III. D. 1.

Benjamin had also served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War).

Also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

It would appear that at the time of the 1881 census the Brand family was residing at Coppard Gap, Hove, Sussex:-

Benjamin BRAND.	Aged 32.	Born Rochester, Kent. Merchant Seaman
Eleanor BRAND.	Aged 28.	Born Woolwich, Kent.

Benjamin J. BRAND. Aged 7. Born Chatham, Kent.
Madaline E. BRAND. Aged 1. Born Brighton, Sussex.

BROMLEY, GORDON JOHN. Private, 3697.

1st Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Killed in action at Flers, Somme, France 5 November 1916. Aged 31.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Sydney, New South Wales, Australia 24 July 1915.

Resided 476 Crown Street, Surrey Hills, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Husband of Mrs A.B. Bromley, of Surrey Hills, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Half-Brother of Mrs E.E. Mausley of Bank Street, Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

Commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France, and on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 28, also on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial. After Gordon's basic training he was taken onto the strength of the 1st Battalion, Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force, and sailed with the battalion onboard the 9732 ton R.M.S Mootan from Sydney on 11 December 1915. The ship which had taken Gordon to war was torpedoed and sunk on 26 July 1917 by the German submarine UC-27 commanded by Gerhard Schulz, with the loss of only two lives amongst the 554 people onboard when she was 53 miles off Cape Serrat whilst on a voyage from Sydney, New South Wales and Freemantle to London with a general cargo, mails, and meat. Gordon's battalion was the first infantry unit recruited for the Australian Imperial Force in New South Wales during the Great War. His battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on 2 December. The battalion later took part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December. Its most notable engagement at Gallipoli was the battle of Lone Pine in August. Two members of the battalion, Captain A. J. Shout and Lieutenant L.M. Keysor were awarded Victoria Crosses for their valour at Lone Pine; Captain Shout's was sadly posthumous award. Following the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. At Bullecourt in May 1917, Corporal G. J. Howell became the third member of the battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918. This advance by British and empire troops was the greatest success in a single day on the Western Front, one that German General Erich Ludendorff described with good cause as "the black day of the German Army in this war." Gordon's battalion continued operations until late September 1918. Between November 1918 and May 1919 the men of the 1st Battalion returned to Australia for demobilization and discharge.

COOMBER, H. P. No exact trace, but best match is:-

COOMBER, HAROLD. Private, G/13619.

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

Died 3 May 1917.

Born Snodland, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Folkestone, Kent. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais, France 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 HQ 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; Capt 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 MC 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 RFC officers thankfully survived the war.

COOPER, ALBERT EDWARD. Rifleman, A/200306.

11th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 13 August 1917. Aged 21.

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

Son of Frank and Matilda Ann Cooper of 8, Limekiln Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Panel 51, and the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

CROFT, WILLIAM JOHN. Serjeant, 7916.
“A” Company, 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.

Died 27 November 1914. Aged 29.

Born Dover, Kent.

Son of Charles and Emily Croft.

Husband of Emma Eloie Adamthwaite (formerly Croft) of 38, St. Vincent Street,
Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Buried Brompton Cemetery, London. Grave Ref: N. 172724.

Also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

The cemetery where William is buried containing 375 Commonwealth war graves is situated next door to Chelsea Football Club at Stamford Bridge, with the two locations being divided by a railway line. William is also probably the casualty commemorated on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent as J.W.CROFT. At the time of the 1901 census the Croft family was residing at 7 Church Place, Dover, Kent, a native of Brightling, Sussex, 60 year old Coachman Charles Croft was the Head of the House. Like thousands of other soldiers who had ‘Home Deaths,’ William has no SDGW entry, but he does have a matching MIC entry which is probably indicative of him having died of wounds or injuries post 13 August 1914, when his battalion had arrived at Le Harve onboard (the appropriately named) SS Gloucester Castle.

CROCKEWIT, ALEXANDER EDWARD. Second Lieutenant.

3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Attached to the 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment at time of his death.

Died of wounds received the 26 October 1917. Aged 31.

Son of John Henry and Fanny M. Crockewit of “Menin,” 32, Leyburn Road, Dover,
Kent.

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

Grave Ref: XXII. H. 2.

Formerly Driver, T4/058235, Army Service Corps.

Alexander, who was educated at Bedford School, is also commemorated on the Shepherdswell, Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and on a Great War memorial plaque located in St Andrew’s church, Shepherdswell. On 25 October 1917 the 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment was in a position named ‘STIRLING CASTLE’ on the Ypres Salient which was heavily shelled at intervals throughout the day. The battalion was primarily engaged as carrying parties supplying the 1st Battalion, Cheshire Regiment, and also as carrying parties taking telephone cable to positions near ‘FITZCLARENCE FARM.’ During the arduous supply undertakings which were mainly carried out under fire, Alexander was severely wounded and succumbed to his injuries the following day.

CURTIS, ALBERT EDWARD. Leading Stoker, 19384.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. "Tartar."

Died 17 June 1917. Aged 24.

Born Portsmouth, Hampshire 2 August 1892.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Curtis of 23, Hope Street Landport, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Husband of Nellie Gertrude Curtis of the Mitre Hotel, 77, Snargate Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel. 26.

Albert's ship was commanded by Lieutenant Guy Kemble Twiss from Lindfield, Sussex and was a destroyer in the Dover Patrol. H.M.S. Tartar hit a mine on the above date which resulted in a high casualty rate amongst the crew either killed, injured or missing.

As those killed were brought back to port, it would seem likely that Albert perished when the ship hit the mine and was actually lost at sea. Guy Kemble, the son of a Vice Admiral was also killed in the accident and has a private headstone in Walstead, Lindfield Cemetery, Sussex. H.M.S. Tartar was repaired following her extensive damage and survived the Great War she was eventually sold for scrap on 9 May 1921.

DATLEN, GEORGE EDWARD. Lance Corporal, G/9046.

2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 17 August 1916. Aged 22.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Jessie Ann Denton (formerly Datlen) of 2, Springdale Terrace, Nettlestead, Wateringbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 C.

DAVIS, ALFRED B. Private, G/7681.

3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 6 March 1919.

Son of Alfred Benjamin Davis.

Husband of E. Davis.

Buried Kingston-upon-Thames Cemetery, Surrey. Grave Ref: E. "C." 4772.

The cemetery at Norbiton where Alfred is at rest was begun in 1854 and now covers 25 acres. It belongs to the Kingston Joint Burial Committee, serving Kingston-upon-Thames, New Malden and Coombe, and contains 161 scattered War Graves, and a War Cross is erected facing the main entrance. Unfortunately due to O/SDGW cut off date it has not been possible to extract data from same, in much the same way re date of the above soldiers demise, he is not recorded on his regimental Nominal Roll of Great War deaths. It should be noted that although his battalion as shown above remained in Dover for the duration of the war, he has an exact matching MIC entry indicative of overseas active service; as such in view of the date of his demise it is very likely that he died of wounds or other war related injuries.

DUNBAR, JOHN SINDAIR. Private, 2171.

“F” Company, 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Died 27 October 1914. Aged 35.

Born Kirkcudbright. Enlisted Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Son of William and Annie Dunbar of 2, Weatherley Street, Scotswood Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Husband of A. A. Goodchild (formerly Dunbar) of Hubberstone Green, Milford Haven Pembrokeshire, South Wales. Formerly of 39 Oxenden Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 5.

ELLENDER, ALBERT GEORGE. Leading Stoker, K/4464.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. “Formidable.”

Died 1 January 1915. Aged 29.

Born Dover, Kent 23 January 1886.

Son of Joseph William and Elizabeth Ellender of 1 Strond Street, Dover, Kent.

Husband of Mabel Charlotte Ellender of 43, Liverpool Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11.

A brother of the next casualty commemorated.

Albert’s 15,250 tons pre-Dreadnought Battleship, was sunk by two torpedoes fired from the German submarine U-24 commanded by Rudolf Schneider, when she was about 20 miles off Start Point, Devon at 0200 hours on 1 January 1915. The first torpedo hit the number one boiler port side; a second explosion caused the ship to list heavily to starboard. Huge waves thirty feet high lashed the stricken ship, with strong winds, rain and hail, sinking it in less than two hours. Captain Arthur N. Loxley R.N, his second-in-command, Commander Charles F. Ballard R.N, and the signaler stayed at their posts throughout, sending flares and rockets off at regular intervals. There was no panic, the men waiting calmly for the lifeboats to be lowered. Someone played ragtime on the piano, others sang. The ships Chaplain was said to have risked his life going below to find cigarettes to distribute amongst the crew. Suddenly the ship gave a tremendous lurch, the Captain shouted “Lads, this is the last, all hands for themselves, and may God bless you and guide you to safety.” He then walked to the forebridge, lit a cigarette and, with his terrier Bruce on duty at his side, calmly waited for the end, in true Royal Naval tradition. Only 199 men were saved out of the ships complement of about 750, H.M.S. Formidable was on exercises at the time of her loss and has the sad distinction of being the first British battleship to be sunk in the Great War. On 26 October 1914 Rudolf Schneider was also in commanded the U-24 when he carried out first of the attacks on an unarmed merchant ship without warning. The ship being the SS Admiral Ganteaume, which Rudolf Schneider torpedoed but was unable to sink the ship, which was later successfully taken in tow and made it safely to port.

ELLENDER, REGINALD ALFRED. M.M. Private, 495231.
53rd Stationary Hospital, (Territorial Force) Royal Army Medical Corps.
Died 2 July 1918. Aged 31.
Born and resided Dover, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent.
Son of Joseph William and Elisabeth Ellender of 1 Strond Street, Dover, Kent.
Husband of Olive May Ellender of 208, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.
Buried Murmansk New British Cemetery, Russian Federation. Grave Ref: A. 9.
Also commemorated on an impressive stained glass window at the Grammar School for Boys, Dover, Kent, it being the tribute to the former pupils of the school who lost their lives during the years of the Great War. Murmansk New British Cemetery was made in 1930. The 40 burials in the cemetery were moved in from the Old British Cemetery that had been used by the No 86 General Hospital during the years 1918 and 1919, the cemetery now contains 83 burials and commemorations of the Great War. The Special Memorials commemorate officers and men known to have been buried in cemeteries elsewhere in the Murman area. Reginald had been awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during the 1916 Battle of the Somme, but a few months later during the battle he was gassed at Bullecourt, which may have played a part in his demise as his Casualty Card shows cause of death as Pneumonia. Possibly the gassing had left him unable to cope with the severity of the weather encountered by the expedition on which he was a member. His unit at the time of Reginald's death was commanded by Major D.C. Williams, R.A.M.C.

ERRY, THOMAS HERBERT. Private, TF/202273.
1/7th Battalion, (Territorial Force) Middlesex Regiment.
Died 3 May 17.
Enlisted Hornsey, Middlesex. Resided Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.
Former regimental number 6318, same rank and regiment. It is fairly certain that the spelling of Thomas's surname by the CWGC (ERREY) is erroneous as all other data checked shows it spelt as on the war memorial, it is also the same spelling on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

EVERETT, C.O.B. No trace.

FISHER, HERBERT FREDERICK. Second Hand, 1059SA.
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M. Drifter "Spotless Prince."
Died 26 October 1916. Aged 39.
Born Aldeburgh, Suffolk.
Husband of Emma Louisa Fisher of 3 Archcliffe Road, The Pier, Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 18, and is also amongst the eighty four Great War casualties who are remembered on the Aldeburgh, Suffolk civic war memorial. Herbert's Admiralty requisitioned drifter was with a number of other vessels, they being H.M.S. Ajax II, H.M.S. Datum, "Gleaner of the Seas," "Launch Out" and "Roburn" in the Dover Straits, when they were attacked by German Torpedo Boat Destroyers, which resulted in numerous losses.

FRENCH, HENRY JOHN. Able Seaman, 237873.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. "Pathfinder."

Died 5 September 1914. Aged 24.

Born Canterbury, Kent 25 March 1889.

Son of Mr and Mrs French, Green Dragon, Strond Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 2.

Royal Navy data accessed shows his Christian names reversed.

H.M.S. Pathfinder a 2,900 ton Pathfinder Scout Class cruiser was the leader of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla based at Rosyth, Scotland, she was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea off St. Abbs Head, Berwickshire, Scotland, by the German U-boat U-21 which was commanded by Leutnant zur See Otto Hersing. Short of coal she was only making 5 knots at the time of her loss, she has the unenviable distinction of being the first Royal Navy warship to be sunk by a U-boat of the German Navy during the Great War, and the first ship ever to be sunk by a torpedo alone. H.M.S. Pathfinder was struck by the torpedo in one of her magazines, which exploded causing the ship to sink within a few minutes with the loss of 259 men there was 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 in position 54.19N, 03.42W while on passage to surrender to the allied powers.

FOWLER, ALFRED THOMAS. Canteen Server, Admiralty Civilian.

H.M.S. "Hampshire."

Died 5 June 1916 Aged 18.

Son of Mrs. M. A. Belsey of 4, Limekiln Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 20.

H.M.S. Hampshire struck one of 22 mines that were laid prior to the battle of the Jutland by the German U-boat U-72 which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Curt Beitzen. Although now probably best remembered for the loss of Lord Kitchener, H.M.S. Hampshire sank with the loss of about 650 on board her. The bodies of over 100 officers and ratings were recovered from the sea and laid to rest in a collective grave in Lyness Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney Islands. 23 German submariners were lost on 13 December 1917 when the U-72 struck a mine off the island of Terschelling, Holland.

GATEHOUSE, EDWARD WILLIAM. Stoker 1st Class, SS/103285.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. Blonde.

Died at home 11 September 1916. Aged 28.

Born Dover, Kent 5 January 1888.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gatehouse of Shakespeare Colliery, Dover. Kent.

Buried Charlton Cemetery, Dover Kent. Grave Ref: Z. N. 1.

Edward's ship was a 3,850 ton Blonde class scout cruiser built at Pembroke Dockyard, and was laid down in December 1909 she was completed in May 1911. Whilst attached to Grand Fleet Battle Squadrons, on 31 May and 1 June 1916 she took part in the Battle of Jutland. In March 1917 H.M.S. Blonde was converted to lay mines, she survived the Great War and in 1921 she was sold for scrap. To clear a path for the railway a section of Shakespeare Cliffs was blasted with almost 20,000 tons of gunpowder in 1843, which resulted in an additional tract of land which was added to during the Channel Tunnel

works in the 1880's, it being in stark contrast to the tranquil surroundings there today at Saphire Hoe. Shakespeare Colliery which was also known as Dover Colliery was Kent's first coal colliery opening in 1896 at the old Channel Tunnel workings, where prior to the tunnels abandonment coal had been discovered during the excavation process. After numerous setbacks the colliery was finally abandoned towards the end of the Great War and was it was in the hands of a Caretaker, who was Edward's father, Charles Gatehouse. Several of the coal miners and others, chose to reside on the land surrounding the colliery, and all were of necessity notably hardy souls who were known by the townsfolk in times past as the 'cliff dwellers,' with the Gatehouse family being amongst their number. On the 1881 census at which time Edward's father a native of Dover, Kent was a Railway Labourer, the family residence was given as Folkestone Road Base, Shakespears Cliff, Hougham, Dover, Kent. The tunnel from the main road down to Saphire Hoe at the base of the cliffs was only made during the 1970's Channel Tunnel workings, and during the 'cliff dwellers' times the only options was to climb the treacherous cliff path or go by sea. When Edward Gatehouse came home on sick leave, effectively to die and suffering like a vast number of Stokers from Tuberculosis, he came by sea. Following his death Edward's body was taken from the Gatehouse family home for burial in Charlton Cemetery, Dover, by his father Charles who took it by sea. Despite or possibly due to, the harsh existence of 'cliff dwelling' several of the community lived to a quite a good age, in fact Charles Gatehouse, Edward's father, died the day before his ninetieth birthday on 30 September 1952. Edward's mother, Elizabeth Mary Gatehouse died on 18 August 1957 aged 94. The couple's son Edward had enlisted in the Royal Navy in July 1906 and had initially served aboard H.M.S. "Acheron," which was the former H.M.S. Northumberland, built in 1868 as an armoured frigate she was renamed in 1904 and used as a Stoker's training and depot ship at Chatham, Kent. Although Edward's CWGC commemoration shows him as being a member of the ships company of H.M.S. Blonde, he had in fact due to his illness been posted for the last two months of his service to the Chatham Naval Barracks, H.M.S. Pembroke. Edward seems to have gone through something of a blip in his naval career over three consecutive years 1908, 1909 and 1910. On one occasion in 1908 Edward had "refused to carryout his duty," and in 1909 and 1910 had been placed in the cells!

GRAVES, HENRY KNOTT. Acting Farrier Serjeant, 14546.
88th Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 13 October 1918.
Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.
Buried Basra War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: I. Q. 1.
Formerly Driver and Acting Serjeant, 12th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

GRIFFITHS, T. No clear trace.

HOLYMAN, LEWIS BADEN. Trimmer, 957181
Mercantile Marine Reserve, H.M.S. Caledonia.
Died 2 November 1918. Aged 18.
Buried Haslar Naval Hospital, Gosport, Hampshire. Grave Ref: E. 36. 17.

HOPPER, ALBERT. Private, G/62530.
8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 9 April 1917.
Enlisted Chelsea. Resided Dover, Kent.
Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: XVII. J. 9.
Formerly Trooper, 4261, 1st County of London Yeomanry.

N.B. Only one of the following casualties is commemorated on the Holy Trinity Hall memorial, as it is not possible which, both have been entered below.

HOPPER, ALBERT EDWARD. Lance Serjeant, 27/320.
27th (Service) Battalion, (4th Tyneside Irish) Northumberland Fusiliers.
Died 11 March 1917.
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Sunderland, County Durham.
Buried Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France. Grave II. F. 11.

HOPPER, ALFRED EDWARD. Gunner, 35168.
96th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 13 January 1916. Aged 29.
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent.
Son of Alfred and Lilian Hopper of Dover, Kent.
Husband of Lucy May Gouge (formerly Hopper) of 85, Amersham Vale, New Cross, London.
Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Grave Ref: II. C. 51.

HOWARD, WILLIAM ALFRED. Corporal, L/10256.
"C" Company, 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 27 November 1914. Aged 20. (**Please see below**).
Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.
Son of Charles James and Eliza Charlotte Jane Howard of 2, Beach Street Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 11, and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.
It is not possible to add much by way of additional brief information at this time (November 2004), regarding William's death, as his service papers (if available), death certificate or casualty card data have so far been sighted. The prime reason for wanting to see any (or all) of them, is that SDGW shows "Died" as opposed to Killed in Action or Died of Wounds etcetera, which may or may not be the correct information. Possibly of more significance is that SDGW records William's date of death as having occurred on 1 May 1915. As William was clearly a regular soldier as indicated by his regimental number prefix, a check of his MIC entry showed him formerly as a Private, with the same

regimental number and serving in the same regiment. Whilst the date of death as commemorated by the CWGC is possibly correct, it would have meant on the face of it quiet rapid promotion, from the time that William's battalion had arrived at La Harve aboard the SS "Braemar Castle" on 13 August 1914. To add to the 'confusion' regarding William's date of death is that on some data checked William is shown as being as Acting Corporal. In view of the horrendous losses suffered by the regular battalions in the British Expeditionary Force early in the Great War, it might be of significance regarding the date of William's demise. On several occasions prior to 27 November 1914, the battalion incurred heavy casualties, notably on 31 October, when 151 other ranks deaths were recorded amongst a total casualty roll numbering 624, plus 9 officers.

HUMPHREY, CHARLES. Corporal, 358019.

206th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery,

Died 1 November 1918. Aged 24.

Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of Margarett Anne Humphrey of 263, London Road, Dover, Kent and the late James Humphrey.

Buried Awoingt British Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: II. E. 7.

At the time of the 1901 census the Humphrey family was residing at 97 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Dover native James, who was a Foreman Dyer.

JENNER, WILLIAM CHARLES. Private, L/7541.

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

Died 12 October 1914.

Born and enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Buried Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: VIII. D. 6.

Born Betchingley, Surrey. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 3.

KEYTON, ALBERT JOSEPH THOMAS. Private, M2/155644.

Army Service Corps, Clearing Office.

Died 11 November 1918.

Born enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Buried St. Mary's New Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: J. H. 11.

Note that Albert died on Armistice Day.

LASLETT, WILLIAM SAMUEL BARRETT. Private, G/9191.

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

Died 28 August 1916. Aged 22.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Laslett of Dover; Kent.

Husband of E. A. Doe (formerly Laslett) of 85, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: X. 22.

LOCKE, GEORGE EDWARD. Rifleman, 593431.
18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles).
Died 7 April 1917. Aged 24.
Son of Annie Lydia Locke of 6, Bulwark Street, Dover, Kent.
Born Rye, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.
Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: XI. C. 19.
Formerly Private, 1822, 4th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

MARBROOK, ALFRED RICHARD. Private, 5777.
4th Regiment, (First Eastern Rifles) South African Infantry.
Died 24 March 1918. Age. 34.
Born Eastry, Kent.
Son of Abraham Butler Marbrook and Elizabeth Marbrook of 55, Bulwark Street, Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panels 95-98.
Alfred's date of death is quite significant as only a month later on 24 April 1918, having suffered extremely heavy casualties resultant of the German Spring Offensive which began on 21 March 1918, the 1st, 2nd and 4th South African Infantry Regiments were amalgamated, becoming the South African (Composite) Regiment. They were later re-formed by 1 September 1918. At the time of the 1901 census the Marbrook family resided at the 'Hope Inn,' 15 Council House Street, Dover, Kent. Alfred's father, Abraham Marbrook being a Licensed Victualler.

McNEIR, GEORGE ALFRED. M.M. Serjeant, L/10011.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 1 December 1917. Aged 23.
Born Jullundur, India. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Finniss Hill, Dover Kent.
Son of Martin and Esther McNeir of 1, Invicta Cottages, Finniss Hill, Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 3.

MILLNE, CHARLES HENRY. Private, 1369.
25th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Cyclists).
Died 24 December 1914.
Enlisted Fulham. Resided Weybridge, Surrey.
Buried St. Mary's New Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: J. F. 22.

NEWTON, ALBERT WILLIAM. Serjeant, CH/17111.
1st Royal Marine Battalion, (188th Brigade), 63rd Royal Naval Division.
Died 3 September 1918. Aged 24.
Son of Frederick Richard Newton of 123, Reginald Road, Eastney, Portsmouth, Hampshire.
Buried Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: V. F. 29.
Serjeant Newton above is one of only two casualties commemorated by the CWGC with matching initials and Christian names, the other being a soldier with birth, enlistment and place of residence all in East London who may of course be the man on the war

memorial. Of the two choices, Serjeant Newton is possibly a more likely casualty bearing in mind he has a 'Chatham' number, which obviously is not solid evidence of a Kent connection, but had he been a native or resident of Eastney he would probably have had a 'Portsmouth' number. Other options of course being that the A.W. Newton on the war memorial was not commemorated by the CWGC, or died of war related injuries or illness/s post 1921.

NORRIS, FRANK JOHN, Private, G/17932.
7th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.
Born 30 April 1917. Aged 34.
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Edward and Elizabeth Norris of Dover, Kent.
Husband of Mercy Matilda Norris of 130, Heathfield Avenue, Dover, Kent.
Buried Feuchy British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. A. 13.
A brother of the following casualty, please note both dates of death.

NORRIS, HERBERT E. Private, GS/60491.
9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 3 May 1917.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3.
Formerly Private, 23260, East Surrey Regiment.

PARKER, GEORGE WILLIAM GARDINER. Private, G/9297.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 July 1916.
Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D, and on St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

N.B. Unfortunately it has not been possible to ascertain which C. PHIPPS and E. PHIPPS are commemorated on the Holy Trinity Memorial Hall tribute, as such both have been entered below.

PHIPPS, CHARLES. Private, G/5360.
7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 1 July 1916. Aged 30.
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Sittingbourne, Kent. Resided Milton Regis, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and face 5 D.
Please note that this Charles Phipps is not to be confused with the next soldier of (the same regiment) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and Dover native who is briefly commemorated below. At the time of the 1901 census the Phipps family including Charles and his brother Frederick commemorated below, was residing at 8 Mill Lane, Dover, Kent, where their 37 year old Dover native father who was employed as a Labourer was the Head of the house.

PHIPPS, CHARLES. Private, G/5493.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 13 March 1916.
Born Charlton, Dover Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.
Buried Sanctuary Wood, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: II. M. 1.

PHIPPS, EDWARD ARTHUR. Private, 32107.
“A” Company, 7th (Service) Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment.
Died 3 August 1917. Aged 29.
Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 37.
Please note the regimental numbers of Edward and James Phipps who probably enlisted together. Commemorated as E PHIPPS on the Dover civic war memorial.

PHIPPS, EDWIN WILFRED. Private, G/21458.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 25 September 1917. Aged 19.
Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Phipps of 3, Eastholm Mansions, Highbury Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.
Buried Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: VI. G. 65.
Also commemorated on Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex civic war memorial and St. Mary the Virgin parish church war memorial Dover, Kent.

PHIPPS, FREDERICK EDWARD. Lance Corporal, 8713.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)
Died 5 April 1915. Aged 31.
Born St. Mary's, Dover Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Dover, Kent.
Buried St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Grave Ref: A. 7. 10.
Also commemorated on St. Martins School, Dover, Kent Great War commemoration plaque. Please note census details at Frederick's brothers' commemoration, he being the first of the two Charles Phipps above.

PHIPPS, JAMES WILLIAM. Private, 32108.
2nd Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment.
Died 21 August 1918. Aged 35.
Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Panel 92 to 93 and 162A.
Commemorated as J PHIPPS on the Dover civic war memorial.

PILCHER, GEORGE H. Private, G/861.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 8 May 1917.
Born River, Dover Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.
Son of Mr. J. Pilcher of 77, Snargate Street, Dover, Kent.

Buried Philosophe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: I. O. 4.

PORT, ALBERT GODDARD. Able Seaman.
Mercantile Marine. S.S. "Achille Adam" (London).
Died 24 March 1917. Aged 24.
Born Dover, Kent.
Son of the late William and Sarah Port.
Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London.

Albert was amongst six lost when his 460 ton ship built in 1886, was captured by the German coastal minelayer submarine UC-66 commanded by Herbert Pustkuchen off the French coast at a position approximately 30 nautical miles due south of Beachy Head, Sussex, and was sunk by bombs. Four of those lost are commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial. It would appear that the deaths of the crew were due to exposure as opposed to the actual sinking of the ship. It is thought that the UC-66 was probably later lost with all the submarines twenty three crew, on 12 June 1917, having been forced to dive by H.M.T. "Sea King." After being depth charged, it is suspected that the submarine finally blew up, it being the result of an internal explosion of the submarines own mines that were still on board whilst submerged.

PULHAM, D. No trace.

RIGDEN, GEORGE. Lance Corporal, L/10001.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 2 December 1915. Aged 20.
Born Buckland, Dover Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.
Son of Mrs. M. Rigden of 28, Limekiln Street, Dover, Kent.
Buried Buckland Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: F. 34.

SMITH, ARTHUR PHILIP. Petty Officer Stoker, 308719.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Aboukir.
Died 22 September 1914. Aged 28.
Born Dover, Kent 19 June 1886.
Son of John Taylor Smith.
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 became the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on 22 September 1914 the same submarine under the command of Commander 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 peace, and were able to reload 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. 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 so 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 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 quickly got underway on sighting a submarine's 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 Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch Flora and Titan and the British trawlers JGC and Corairder 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 submarine 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.

SPAIN, THOMAS EDWARD. Sapper, 151075.

Royal Engineers, Inland Water Transport.

Died 31 October 1916. Aged 30.

Born and enlisted Dover, Kent.

Son of Thomas Jarvis Spain and Hannah Jane Spain of Dover, Kent.

Husband of Lizzie Spain of Limekiln Street, Dover, Kent.

Buried Aire Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: I. E. 7.

SPINNER, WILLIAM GEORGE. M.M. Battery Quartermaster Serjeant, 168545.

179th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 12 November 1918. Aged 24.

Son of Charles and Mary Spinner of Dover, Kent.

Husband of Minnie E. Spinner of 8, Springfield Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried St. James's Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref. G. K. 25.

Awarded the Military Medal whilst a Serjeant in 1917.

SQUIRE, BASIL BRETT. Captain.

460th (Howitzer) Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 23 April 1917. Aged 20.

Son of Basil Brett Squire and Edith Jane Squire of 56, Leyburne Road, Dover, Kent.

Buried Tilloy British Cemetery, Tilloy-lès-Mofflaines, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: IV. B. 17.

At the time of the 1901 census the Squire family was residing at 1, Leyburne Road, Dover, Kent, with 32 year Wivenhoe, Essex native Basil Brett Squire (senior), who was a Brewer shown as being the Head of the house.

STEVENS, EDWARD PERCY. Gunner, 2165.

“A” Battery, 222nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 19 July 1916. Aged 35.

Husband of Emma J. Stevens of 29, Old Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Buried Basra War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: V. X. 6.

Regretably Edward was not commemorated in the 222nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, Book of Remembrance. Edward was one of only very few omissions, it being a welcome change to scores of other similar ‘unit’ forms of tributes to the fallen.

STEWART, WILLIAM HENRY. Stoker 1st Class, 310491.

Royal Navy. H.M.S. “Pathfinder.”

Died 5 September 1914. Aged 25.

Born Dover, Kent 9 October 1887. (CWGC shows Native of Folkestone).

Son of John Alexander and Catherine Stewart of 62, Bulwark Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 5. A brother of the next casualty. H.M.S. Pathfinder a 2,900 ton Pathfinder Scout Class cruiser was the leader of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla based at Rosyth, Scotland, she was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea off St. Abbs Head, Berwickshire, Scotland, by the German U-boat U-21 which was commanded by Leutnant zur See Otto Hersing. Short of coal she was only making 5 knots at the time of her loss, she has the unenviable distinction of being the first Royal Navy warship to be sunk by a U-boat of the German Navy during the Great War, and the first ship ever to be sunk by a torpedo alone. H.M.S. Pathfinder was struck by the torpedo in one of her magazines, which exploded causing the ship to sink within a few minutes with the loss of 259 men there was 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 to surrender to the allied powers.

USHERWOOD, HORACE CHARLES. Private, G/9118.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Died 15 September 1916. Aged 22.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Usherwood of 6, Limekiln Street, The Pier, Dover, Kent.

Buried Guillemont Road Cemetery, Guillemont, Somme, France. Grave Ref: X. N. 2.

WATTS, ARTHUR HERBERT. Serjeant, L/10044.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Died 21 July 1916. Aged 21.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Buried Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: I. N. 12.

WELCH, E. No trace.

WICKS, ARTHUR GIFFORD. Private, 9077.

2nd Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company.

Died 2 April 1917. Aged 19.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Resided Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

Son of John Gifford Wicks and Kate Wicks of "Snaefell," 39, Priory Hill, Dover, Kent.

Buried Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps, Somme, France. Grave Ref: IV. G. 2.

At the time of the 1901 census the Wicks family was residing at 10 Hubert Terrace, Dover, Kent, where 39 Dover native and Schoolmaster John Gifford Wicks was the Head of the house, his wife who was two years his junior was a native of Bedford, Bedfordshire.

WILSON, HENRY PORTER. Private, L/10605.

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

Died 23 March 1918. Aged 23.

Born Croydon, Surrey. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Henry Porter Wilson and Elizabeth Wilson of 13, Commercial Quay, Dover. Kent.

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

Henry was amongst 27 members of his battalion that lost their lives in the same defensive action that Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell V.C., D.S.O., commanding the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) won the Victoria Cross, both battalions being in the 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern Division). Two days prior to Henry's death, the part played by his battalion on 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. 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. It has not been possible to ascertain where, when or exactly how Henry actually lost his life, but it would seem eminently feasible that it was whilst taking part in the action that Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell V.C., D.S.O., won his Victoria Cross.

YOUNG, A.G. No trace.

