

# Fordcombe



Fordcombe civic war memorial near Royal Tunbridge Wells was erected and unveiled in 1920. It was designed by George Halford Fellows Prynne F.E.I.B.A., who is arguably best remembered for his work in designing new churches, and the restoration of others, one of the latter churches being that of St. Peters, Fordcombe where the war memorial is located. Two casualties  
All of the photographs which accompany the Fordcombe transcriptions were kindly provided for inclusion here by Susan F. Transcriptions by Patrick D. Scullion.

## The Great War

1914 -1919

**CARR, A.** Corporal. 9th R.W.K. as commemorated on the Fordcombe civic war memorial is probably the following casualty, who appears to be the best match:-

**CARR, ALBERT OWEN.** Private, G/11802.

8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died Tuesday 27 June 1916. Aged 20.

Born Southborough, Kent. Enlisted and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Son of Albert Thomas and Elizabeth Ann Carr of White Cottage, Bullington Lane, Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Dranouter, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. F. 14.

**DEWDNEY, ALBERT ERNEST.** Stoker 1st Class, K/20822.

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

Died Thursday 26 November 1914. Aged 20.

Born Sandhills, Dorchester, Dorset 12 January 1895.

Son of Ernest Cecil and Jane Dewdney of Woodhill Cottage, Frensham, Farnham, Surrey.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 4.

**DURLACHER, PHILIP ALFRED.** M.C. Lieutenant.

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).

Died Sunday 12 May 1918. Aged 27.

Son of Alfred and Hilda Durlacher of 142, New Bond Street, London.

Buried Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey. Grave Ref: NA. 180991.

In addition to that at Fordcombe, Philip has a number of other forms of his remembrance at several locations, which include being commemorated on Great War memorial plaque at the Wye Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent. On the Penshurst, Kent, Great War parish tribute in the parish church of St, John the Baptist, and on a marble memorial plaque at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Lambeth, London, SE1 8UJ, which bears the following inscription:-

PHILIP ALFRED DURLACHER M.C./ LIEUTENANT MACHINE GUN CORPS/  
DEDICATED BY/ HIS FATHER AND STEP MOTHER/ 1918

Formerly Private, 1206 West Kent Yeomanry. The citation appertaining to the award of the Military Cross to Philip was published in the supplement of the London Gazette on 9 January 1918, and is as follows: - "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on two separate occasions. During a hostile attack he visited his guns which were in exposed positions and by his personal, example under a heavy barrage encouraged his men to keep their guns in action. On the second occasion he again continued to visit, his guns during a hostile attack and assisted his men to carry ammunition across the open, to their guns, which were in shell holes. When a gun was knocked out he immediately got it mounted and firing again from another position. It was due to his spirit and fine, example that the enemy's attack was repulsed." A brief reference appertaining to the award of Philip's Military Cross also appeared in 'The American Jewish Yearbook 5679' which covers the period from 7 September 1918, to 24 September 1919. Philip's service papers confirm that he was suffering from a nervous disorder at the time of his death, when he committed suicide whilst of an unsound mind. His death certificate confirms that he did this as a direct consequence of his war service! It would appear that shot himself in the head with his own loaded revolver whilst staying in the Cobourg Hotel, London. His father found him laying dead in his room with a large hole in his head. Philip had been due to get married to his fiancée only a few weeks after the date of his tragic demise.

**FAUCHON, FRANK SIDNEY.** Private, 688046.

47th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario Regiment).

Died between Tuesday 21 August 1917 and Saturday 25 August 1917. Aged 32.

Born of Walters Green, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent 19 May 1883.

Son of James Tanner Fauchon and Sarah Ann Fauchon (née Older), late of Walters Green, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, and on page 236 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

Bound for Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, and intending to be a farmer, Frank had sailed from Liverpool as a passenger on the 14,878 ton White Star Line ship 'Megantic,' which arrived at Quebec 3 June 1912. Frank enlisted in the Canadian army at Vernon, British Columbia, on Friday 24 March 1916, and was attested as a member of the 172nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. At the time of his enlistment, Frank stated that he was unmarried, and employed as a Steam Engineer, he named his brother William Fauchon of Walters Green, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent as his next of kin. Prior to his enlistment on 24 March 1916, Frank had served for 4½ months in the 30th British Columbia Horse. In 1910 permission was given to form the Canadian Calvary Regiment in which Frank had formerly served, which was to be known as the 30th British Columbia Horse. When the Great War commenced the 30th British Columbia Horse amalgamated with the Victoria Independent Squadron to form the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles. After arriving in France its brigade was converted into infantry and fought through to the end of the Great War, Being present at every major engagement in which the Canadian Corps took part.

**FIELD, CHARLES CECIL.** Second Lieutenant.

9th (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), attached to the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Died 30 March 1916. Aged 20.

Born Ranskill, Nottinghamshire 20 May 1895.

Third son of the Reverend Walter St. John Field M.A., and of Mrs. Ida Field (née Hornung) of Fordcombe Vicarage, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Voormezele Enclosures Nos.1 and 2, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: I. D. 3.

The small cross which is shown on the right of the photograph above is in remembrance of Charles, and is inscribed as follows:-

LOVING/ MEMORY/ OF/ CHARLES CECIL FIELD/ 3RD SON OF REV W ST  
JOHN & MRS FIELD/ OF FORDCOMBE KENT/ 2ND LIEUT. R.W. KENT  
ATTACHED 2ND SUFFOLKS/ KILLED IN ACTION AT ST ELOI/ MARCH 30TH/  
1916/ AGED 20/ R.I.P.

Formerly Private, 338, 19th (Service) Battalion, (2nd Public Schools), Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Charles was educated at the Abbey School, Beckenham, Kent, at which time his father was a Vicar of Beckenham, after leaving the Abbey School, Charles was a boarder at King's School, Canterbury, Kent. He had matriculated at Keeble College, Oxford and was to have entered into residence in October 1914, having obtained one of the Archbishops Missionary Exhibitions, but instead Charles had enlisted in the army as a Private at the commencement of the Great War. On 9 January 1915, Charles was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the 9th (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and was posted to France on 7 October 1915 attached to the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Whilst in command of a Machine Gun Section in the trenches at St. Eloi, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Charles was shot in the head by an enemy sniper from a range of only 50 yards and died instantly, and buried at Voormezele. Following his death, Charles's parents received a mass of letters of condolence including one from his Commanding Officer, part of which says "He was the most conscientious officer it has been my pleasure to command. He was well liked by everybody, and I know that his men would follow him anywhere." Charles's Company Commander also wrote on behalf of the officers, "He was to them a cheery comrade and friend they can ill afford to lose." Charles's father was a Vicar of Beckenham from 1896 to 1903, and then became the incumbent at the parish church of St. Peters, Fordcombe. Charles's younger brother; Douglas Conan Field enlisted in the army on 21 July 1918, and served as Private, G/39523, in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), attached to the Royal Engineers Officer Cadet Battalion, at Kelham Hall, Kelham, Newark, Nottinghamshire. Douglas was transferred to the Z Reserve at Newark on 7 February 1919, and returned to Fordcombe Vicarage.

**FIELD, REGINALD GEORGE.** Second Lieutenant.

10th (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars.

Died 6 April 1918. Aged 22.

Born St. George's, London.

Son of the late George Hanbury Field, and of the Honourable Mrs. Emily Maud Field (née Hardinge), of Ashurst Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: Officers, B. 2. 26.

Also commemorated on the Ashurst, Kent, Great War parish tribute which is in the form of name inscriptions on the Lych Gate of the parish church of St. Martin. Reginald was posted to France on 17 February 1917. When Reginald's mother submitted an application for his medals, she resided at "Ballards," Goudhurst, Kent. Of 'Kent' interest; Reginald father George Hanbury Field (1834-1901) played cricket for the county during the 1950's. Reginald was a great-grandson of Henry Hardinge, 1st Viscount Hardinge of Lahore and Kings Newton. St. Peters church, Fordcombe has been described as being the "Hardinge family church," having been generous church benefactors, but have almost two dozen family members at rest in the churchyard.

**GREAGSBY, ERNEST CHARLES.** Private, G/4606.

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

Died 24 June 1915. Aged 23.

Born Walters Green, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Annie Child (formerly Greagsby) (née Tester) of Walters Green, Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent, and the late Walter J. Greagsby.

Buried Voormezele Enclosures Nos.1 and 2, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: I. A. 5.

Commemorated on the Penshurst, Kent parish tribute located in the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Penshurst, Kent.

Ernest enlisted in the army for the 'Duration of the War' on 24 November 1914, at which time he stated that he was aged 21 years and 240 days, unmarried and employed as a Butcher. After completing his basic training at Chatham, Kent and serving in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Ernest was posted to the 1st Battalion of the regiment on 1 May 1915 and sent to France.



**HARDINGE**, The Honourable EDWARD CHARLES. D.S.O. Lieutenant.  
15th (The King's) Hussars. 1st Divisional Cavalry.

Died 18 December 1914. Aged 22.

Born Constantinople, Turkey 3 May 1892.

Eldest son of 1st Baron Hardinge of Penshurst, P.C., K.G., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., and of the late Lady Winifred Hardinge (née Sturt) of Penshurst, C.I., of 20, Bryanston Square, London, and of "Oakfield," Penshurst, Tonbridge, Kent. Buried St. Peter's Churchyard, Fordcombe, Kent.

Grave Ref: Near South Wall of Church.

Educated at Wellington College, and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Edward was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the 15th (The King's) Hussars on 9 September 1911, and was promoted to a Lieutenant in August 1914. Edward died of Blood Poisoning as the result of wounds that he had received during the fighting near Le Cateau on 27 August 1914. A Godson of H.M. Queen Alexandra, Edward had been a Page of Honour to H.M. King Edward VII whilst at Wellington College. During the Delhi Durbar of 1911, Edward had been an Honourary A.D.C. to the Viceroy, and later joined his regiment in South Africa in 1912. A keen and competent horseman, Edward had done well in the International Horse Show at Olympia, London, obtaining full marks in the London to Aldershot ride. Mentioned in Dispatches, Edward was an early Great War recipient of the Distinguished Service Order, and his father had been sent a personal telegram from H.M. The King which said; "I have great pleasure in conferring the Distinguished Service Order on your son, for ability and gallantry in reconnaissance under great difficulty and machine-gun fire on three consecutive days, when he was severely wounded. Glad to say that he is progressing satisfactory." On 22-23 August 1914, and again on 27 August, Edward carried out the actions to which H.M. The King had made reference in the telegram. Edward's actions were witnessed by his Squadron Commander, Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Frederick C. Pilkington and by Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) A. Courage who was the Second-in-Command of the Squadron.

**JOHNSON, BERTIE JAMES.** Gunner, 154063.

286th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 29 November 1917.

Born and resided Snodland, Kent. Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Oxford Road Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: V. A. 7.

**MARKWICK, HENRY.** Private, 200550.

2nd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 19 April 1917.

Born Penshurst, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Fordcombe, Kent.

Son of Henry and Ellen Markwick.

Buried Gaza War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: XXX. C. 10.

Commemorated on the Penshurst, Kent, Great War parish tribute.

Formerly Private, TF/1967, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Henry was posted to the Balkan war theatre on 9 August 1915.

**MERCER, HAROLD JOHN.** Private, G/13404.

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

Died 28 January 1917. Aged 28.

Born Penshurst, Kent. Enlisted Carshalton, Surrey. Resided Wallington, Surrey.

Son of Thomas and Harriet Mercer of "Silcox," Fordcombe, Kent.

Buried Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: II. C. 26.

**SCRACE, CECIL GEORGE.** M.M. Serjeant, G/51529.

2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 13 April 1918. Aged 23.

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

Son of Thomas and Clara Cordelia Scrace (née Luck) of Walters Green, Penshurst, Kent.

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 3, and on the Penshurst, Kent, Great War parish tribute.

Formerly Private, G/12331, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**STREATFIELD, EDWIN HENRY.** Private, G/12173.

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

Died 22 July 1916. Aged 25.

Born Withyham, Sussex. Enlisted and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Son of John and Ann Streatfield.

Buried Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: V. C. 4.



**SUMNER, ALBERT GEORGE.** Sapper, 2400.  
1st/3rd Kent Field Company, Royal Engineers.  
Died 28 October 1915. Aged 32.  
Born Ashurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent. Resided Edenbridge, Kent.  
Husband of Rosetta French (formerly Sumner), (née Bassett) of Curds Cottages, Mark Beech, Edenbridge, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 23 to 25 or 325 to 328, and on the Penshurst, Kent civic war memorial.  
Albert was born at Ashurst, Kent, on 2 October 1883, and had been educated at Hartfield School. At the parish church of St. Marys Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent on 5 October 1907, Albert married Miss. Rosetta Bassett the daughter of Aden Bassett. When Albert and Rosetta and three children had resided ay Fordcombe they lived at Chafford Cottages. Prior to his enlistment on 31 May 1915, Albert had been employed by a Mr. Mockford of Fordcombe Manor, Springhill. Albert was one of the victims of the H.M.S. Hythe tragedy, for additional details of the loss of the ship; please see elsewhere on this website.

**TURLEY, WALTER.** Private, 21429.  
2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).  
Died 4 April 1917. Aged 35.  
Born and resided Fordcombe, Kent. Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.  
Son of Edward and Jane Turley of Ashurst, Kent.  
Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: XXII. E. 15A.  
Formerly Private, 21091, East Surrey Regiment.  
At the time of the 1901 census, the Turley family resided at Priest Wood Cottage, Ashurst, Kent. Head of the house was 59 year old Speldhurst, Kent native Edward Turley, who was a Bricklayer and Employer. It would seem very likely that Walter had been employed by his father, as the census enumerator recorded him as being employed as a 19 year old Bricklayers Labourer.

# The Great War

1914 -1919

## Lost Men

**DURRANT, FRANK BABER.** Private, 41165.

7th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

Died 30 June 1918. Aged 18.

Born Fordcombe, Kent. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex.

Son of Horace and Ellen Durrant of 1, North Street, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

Buried Pernes British Cemetery, Pernes-en-Artois, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: V. D. 4.

Commemorated on the Penshurst, Kent, Great War parish tribute, and on the Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex civic war memorial..

Formerly Private, 51669, Bedfordshire Regiment.

**MILES, ALFRED JAMES.** Private, G/10716.

10th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County).

Died 15 July 1916. Aged 21.

Born Penshurst, Kent. Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Resided Fordcombe, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Emily Miles (née Rogers) of Balls Green, Withyham, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Buried Gunners Farm Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.

Grave Ref: S. 1.

Commemorated on the Penshurst, Kent Great War parish tribute.

Formerly Private, G/787, 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Alfred had originally enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment at Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent on 2 September 1914, at which time he stated that he was 19 years and 328 days old, employed as a Farm Labourer, and that he was residing with his parents; James John Miles and Emily Miles of Salehurst Cottage, Langton Green, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Alfred was posted to the 7th (Service) Battalion of his regiment at Sobraon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex. After serving for only 21 days, Alfred was medically discharged from the army on the grounds that he was "Not likely to become an efficient Soldier." The reason for Alfred's discharge was that he was diagnosed as having Exostosis of the knee, at the Colchester Military Hospital, Essex, although he had previously successfully passed an army medical examination prior to his enlistment. Unfortunately it has not been possible thus far, to ascertain when or where Alfred had successfully reenlisted in the army, or of course when he was attested to serve in the 10th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County). Although he appears to have reenlisted stating both of his Christian names and his correct surname, as opposing to resorting to the use of an alias which many other men in a similar situation resorted to.

# The Second World War

1939-1945

**FIELD-MARSHAM, CHARLES AUSTEN.** Lieutenant, 52819.

Life Guards.

Died 15 January 1941. Aged 31.

Born London 3 November 1910. Resided Kent.

Son of Major Charles George Field-Marsham, and Mrs. Mary Dorothea Field-Marsham (née Knight).

Husband of Joan Helen Field-Marsham (née Neville).

Father of Robert Charles Edward Field-Marsham.

Buried St. Peter Churchyard, Fordcombe, Kent.

Commemorated on Second World War memorial plaque at the Wye Agricultural College, Wye, Ashford, Kent.

**COLEMAN, FRANCIS LAURIN.** Second Lieutenant, 180456.

8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps.

Died 2 June 1942. Aged 21.

Born Kent. Resided London.

Son of Francis Henry Coleman, Group Captain, R.A.F. (retd.), and Mary McLaurin Coleman (née Monteath) of Birdham, Sussex.

Commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 17.

Francis's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent Registration District during the last quarter of 1920.

# The Second World War

1939-1945

## Lost Man

**TYDD, JOHN THOMAS.** Private, 4127927.

7th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment.

Died 30 October 1943. Aged 24.

Born and resided Chester, Cheshire.

Husband of May Edith Tydd (née Miles) of Fordcombe, Kent.

Buried Casino War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: VII. J. 19.

John and May's marriage was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent Registration District during the last quarter of 1942. At the time of his death, armed with Vickers machine guns John's battalion was serving as the Machine Gun Battalion of the 5th (Yorkshire) Division.