

# GODMERSHAM



Church of St Lawrence

The Great War  
1914 – 1919

## CHITTENDEN Walter

**Private T/1676 Walter CHITTENDEN. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 21<sup>st</sup> January 1916. Born Hinxhill. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Wye. Buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Amara, Iraq. Grave reference I.C.13.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

16, Godmersham

**Private Albert CHITTENDEN. Army Service Corps.**

35, Bilting

**Private 240382 Leonard CHITTENDEN. Labour Corps.**

**Private 200706 Stanley CHITTENDEN. Durham Light Infantry.**

The Godmersham 1901 census gives –

William CHITTENDEN	55	Shepherd	Hinxhill
Mary	55		Kennington
Bertie (G/Son)	13		Sevington

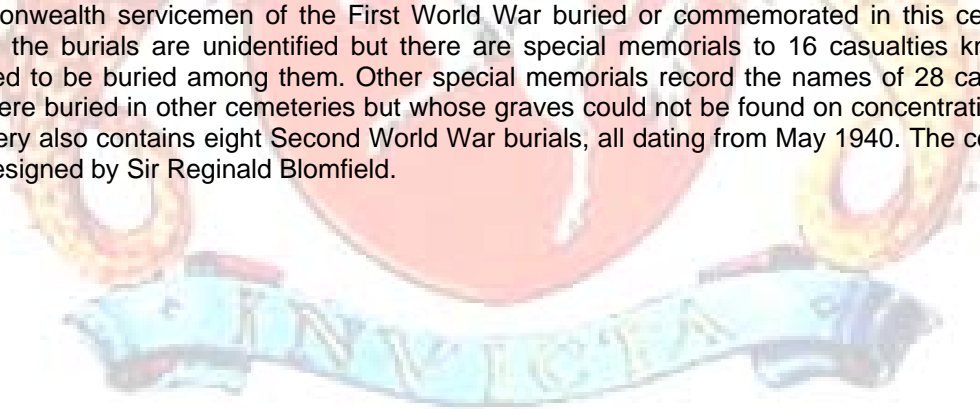
### **Battle of the Hanna**

The Hanna Defile is a narrow strip of dry land between the River Tigris and the Great Suwaiqiya Marshes. The mouth of the Hanna Lines lies upstream of the Wadi, some 8 miles towards Kut-al-Amara. It was the rainy season days were hot, foggy and humid and nights were below freezing. On the 20<sup>th</sup> January the Turkish defences at Hanna came under heavy British artillery bombardment. After the bombardment the infantry moved forward to attack. The Turks rose out of their trenches and literally cut the attacking British infantry down. Very few British soldiers reached their objective. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January a truce was arranged and both sides recovered their killed and wounded from the battlefield. British losses in this action amounted to 2,700 men killed or wounded.

## REYNOLDS Alfred

**Sapper 55653 Alfred E REYNOLDS. 112<sup>th</sup> Railway Company, Royal Engineers (RE).** Died 24<sup>th</sup> June 1917. Born Godmersham. Enlisted London. Resided Ashford. Buried in the White House Cemetery, France. Grave reference III.P.2.

The Cemetery is located north-east of Ieper on the Brugseweg (N313) in the direction of Roeselare/Brugge. From the Grote Markt in Ieper take the road called Korte Torhoutstraat and at the end turn left into Lange Torhoutstraat, follow this road over the roundabout into Kalfvart and continue to the traffic lights. At the traffic lights turn right into Brugseweg and the cemetery is along here on the left before the village of St Jan. Historical Information: White House Cemetery was begun in March 1915 and used until April 1918 by units holding this part of the line. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields around Ypres (now Ieper) and from a number of small burial grounds in the area. The burial grounds from which British graves were brought to White House Cemetery included the following:- BASSEVILLE FARM GERMAN CEMETERY, ZANTVOORDE, on the Zantvoorde-Zillebeke road, where five soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in November, 1914. BAVARIA HOUSE CEMETERY, YPRES, at an Advanced Dressing Station near Verlorenhoek and close to the Potijze-Zonnebeke road. Here were buried, in September-November, 1917, 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom, four from Canada, four from Australia, three from New Zealand and one from the West Indies. BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY, ENCLOSURE No. 1, ZILLEBEKE, on the East side of the Ypres-St. Eloi road. In this, the oldest of the five Bedford House "Enclosures," ten French soldiers were buried in 1914 and 1915, and 14 soldiers from the United Kingdom in 1915 and 1917. COTTAGE GARDEN CEMETERY, ST. JEAN, close to the main street of the village. Here were buried, in 1914-1915, 44 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Canada. GREEN HUNTER CEMETERY, VLAMERTINGHE, close to the cabaret "In den Groenen Jager," a little West of the Vlamertinghe-Voormezele road. Twenty soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried here in 1915 and 1918. HENGEBART FARM CEMETERY, DICKEBUSCH, a mile North of Dickebusch village, where 16 soldiers from Australia and ten (all R.F.A.) from the United Kingdom were buried in 1915-1917. NORTH BANK CEMETERY, VOORMEZEELE, (also called Lankhof Cemetery), between Lankhof Farm and the canal. In this cemetery, which was completely destroyed, eleven Canadian soldiers were buried in April and May, 1916. WILDE WOOD CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, a little North of the Ypres-Roulers railway line, where 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in July-September, 1917. There are now 1,163 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 323 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 16 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 28 casualties who were buried in other cemeteries but whose graves could not be found on concentration. The cemetery also contains eight Second World War burials, all dating from May 1940. The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.



## THORNBY Albert (brother)

**Private G/2512 Albert Frank THORNBY. 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 1<sup>st</sup> April 1917 aged 23 years. Born Hastingleigh. Enlisted Ashford. Resided Wye. Son of Mr H.G Thornby and Phoebe Thornby of 28, Bilting, Wye, Kent. Buried in the Cologne Southern Cemetery. Grave reference X.F.10.

This man appears to have died whilst being held by the Germans as a Prisoner of War (POW). It is thought that Albert may have been captured in the Miraumont area of The Somme in France a few weeks before he died. He may have been wounded when taken.

Cologne Southern Cemetery lies within a large civil cemetery known locally as Koln Sudfriedhof. Koln Sudfriedhof is about 5 kilometres south of the centre of Cologne, on the Honigerweg. The cemetery may also be approached from the E40 (A4) motorway, by taking Junction 11 towards Koln-Klettenberg. Turn right onto the Luxemburger Strasse (B265) for 750 metres, then at the first traffic lights, near the railway, turn right onto the Militarringstrasse. Follow the Militarringstrasse for about 2.5 kilometres, then at the traffic lights turn left onto Bruhler Strasse. After 750 metres turn left onto Markusstrasse. The entrance to the Koln Sudfriedhof cemetery will be seen on the left when entering Honinger Platz. On entering Koln Sudfriedhof, follow the main cemetery road which leads to Cologne War Cemetery. Historical Information: Cologne was entered by Commonwealth forces on 6 December 1918 and occupied under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles until January 1926. COLOGNE SOUTHERN CEMETERY was used during the war for the burial of more than 1,000 Allied prisoners, as well as German servicemen. After the Armistice it was used by the occupying garrison. In 1922 it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died all over Germany should be brought together into four permanent cemeteries. Cologne Southern was one of those chosen and the following year, graves were brought in from 183 burial grounds\* in Hanover, Hesse, the Rhine and Westphalia. There are now 2,482 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plots at Cologne. The total includes special memorials to a number of casualties buried in other cemeteries in Germany whose graves could not be found. The Commonwealth section of the cemetery also contains 132 Second World War graves, mostly those of servicemen who died with the occupying forces. There are, in addition, 676 non-war graves and 29 burials of other nationalities. The COLOGNE MEMORIAL takes the form of panels set inside the north shelter building at the entrance to the Commonwealth plots in Cologne Southern Cemetery. It commemorates 25 servicemen of the United Kingdom who died in Germany and who have no known grave. Of these, 19 are known to have died as prisoners and their places of burial are not recorded. The other six died after the Armistice by drowning and their bodies were not recovered. \*The following cemeteries are among those from which graves were brought to Cologne: AACHEN MILITARY CEMETERY, 197 burials of sailors 1914-1919. BONN (POPPELSDORF) CEMETERY, 133 service and one civilian burial, all of 1919. The 47th General Hospital and the 21st Casualty Clearing Station were posted at Bonn. BUDERICH (FORT BLUCHER) PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, 39 burials of 1914-1919. COBLENZ FRENCH MILITARY CEMETERY, KARTHAUSE, 59 burials of 1915-1918. Coblenz was occupied by United States troops in December 1918. DORTMUND SOUTH-WESTERN CEMETERY, 53 burials of 1914-1918. DUISBURG TOWN CEMETERY, 35 burials of 1914-1919. DULMEN PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, 96 burials of 1915-1918. DUREN NEW TOWN CEMETERY, 79 burials, mostly of 1919. The 11th Stationary Hospital and the 17th Casualty Clearing Station were posted at Duren. DUSSELDORF NORTH CEMETERY, 24 burials of 1915-1918. ESSEN SOUTH-WESTERN CEMETERY, 21 burials of 1917-1918. EUSKIRCHEN NEW TOWN CEMETERY, 75 service and one civilian burials of 1918-1919. The 42nd Stationary Hospital and the 47th Casualty Clearing Station were posted at Euskirchen. FRIEDRICHSFELD PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, 70 burials of 1916-1918. FRIEMERSHEIM CEMETERY, 20 burials of 1918. GELSENKIRCHEN WEST CEMETERY, 21 burials of 1917-1918. GEROLSTEIN MILITARY CEMETERY, 25 burials of 1918. JULICH MILITARY, 39 burials of 1915-1918. MULHEIM-AM-RUHR OLD TOWN CEMETERY, 49 burials of 1915-1918. MUNSTER (HAUSPITAL)

PRISONERS OF WAR CEMETERY, 161 burials of 1914-1918. RECKLINGHAUSEN PROTESTANT, CATHOLIC AND SOUTH CEMETERIES, 26 burials of 1916-1918. TRIER TOWN CEMETERY, 48 burials of 1917-1918.

### THORNBY George (brother)

**Private T/202745 Henry George THORNBY. 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 1918 aged 33 years. Born Holloway. Enlisted Whitehall, London. Resided Ashford. Son of H.G and Phoebe Thornby of 28 Bilting, Wye, Ashford, Kent. Husband of Ellen Thornby of 44 Kinglake Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool. Buried locally in the Wye (SS Gregory and Martin) Churchyard, Wye, Kent. Grave reference 124.

Henry's parents are buried in a plot next to his –

Henry George Thornby died 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1935 aged 77 years  
Phoebe Annette Thornby died 26<sup>th</sup> December 1938 aged 77 years

The day that Henry died his battalion was involved in a major attack with the 8<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Regiment. The 7<sup>th</sup> battalion moved forward on Fregicourt near Saily Saillisel near Bapaume in France. Henry died in the UK therefore it appears he was wounded in France a few weeks earlier and was recovered home for treatment. Sadly he died whilst in the UK and his family bought him home to Wye for burial.

### TURNER Albert

**Private 235408 Albert Henry TURNER MM. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Formerly (290782) Suffolk Regiment.** Died 27<sup>th</sup> May 1918 aged 21 years. Born Gillingham. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Godmersham. Son of Henry and Mary Turner of Home Farm, Bilting, Wye, Kent. Albert has no known grave. His name appears on the Soissons Memorial, France.

The 1901 census gives –  
Bilting, Godmersham

Henry	TURNER	27	Farm Carter	Wye
Mary		28		Hougham
<b>Albert</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>Godmersham</b>
Lilian		1		Godmersham

Albert was awarded the Military Medal (MM) for bravery in the field.



WOOD Walter

**NO TRACE – too many W Wood’s**

Crundale war memorial lists a G WOOD. It appears likely that Walter WOOD and George WOOD might be the same man.

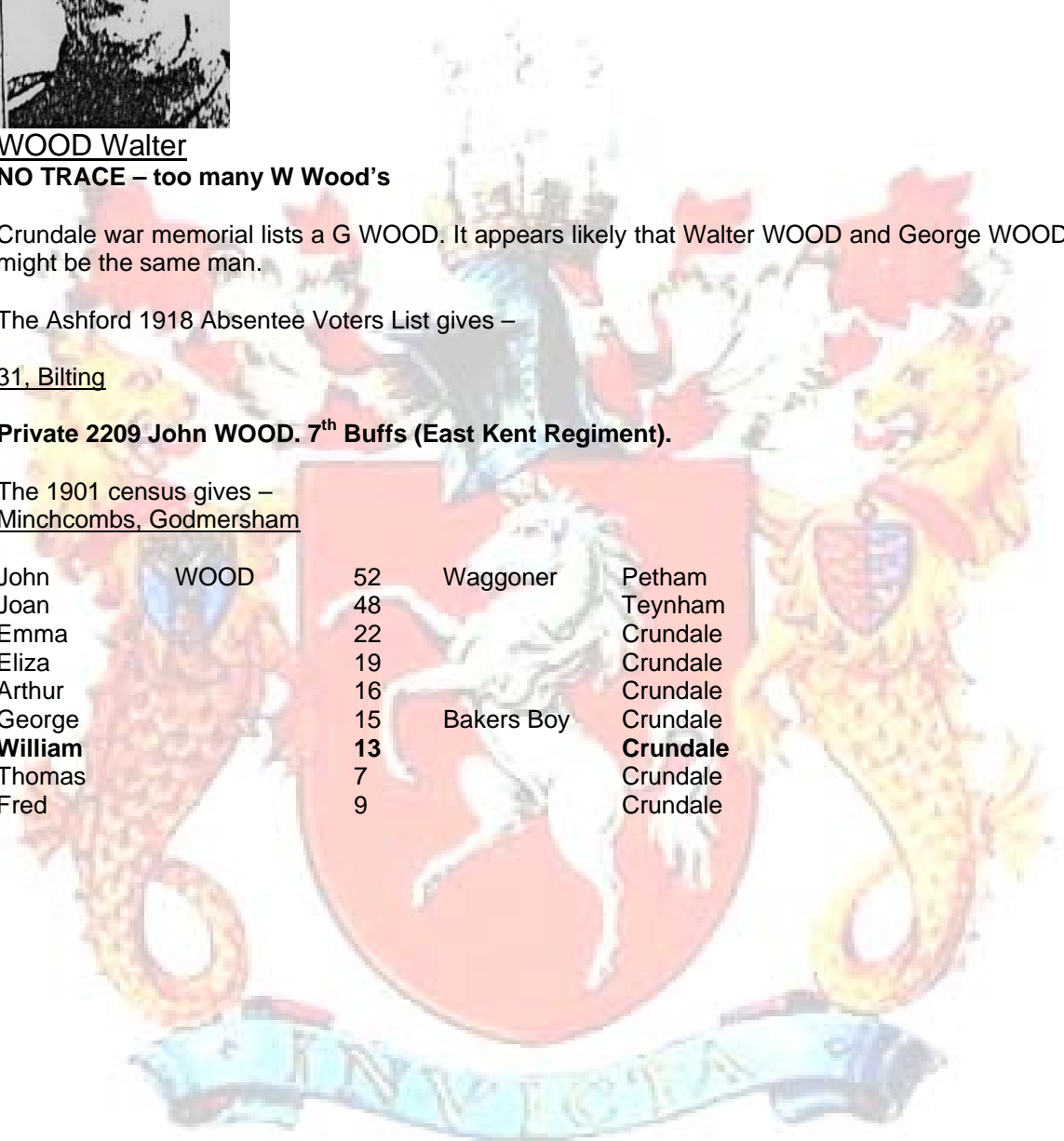
The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

31, Bilting

**Private 2209 John WOOD. 7<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**

The 1901 census gives –  
Minchcombs, Godmersham

John	WOOD	52	Waggoner	Petham
Joan		48		Teynham
Emma		22		Crundale
Eliza		19		Crundale
Arthur		16		Crundale
George		15	Bakers Boy	Crundale
<b>William</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>Crundale</b>
Thomas		7		Crundale
Fred		9		Crundale



# LOST MEN

## BOYS J

**Private TF/241322 John BOYS. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Attended 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion.** Died 24<sup>th</sup> March 1918 aged 36 years. Born Godmersham. Enlisted Tonbridge. Husband of Maud F Boys of 2, Park Terrace, Hidenborough, Kent. Buried in the Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France. Grave reference V.H.5.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

110, Bridge Street, Wye

**Private 9387 Frank BOYS. 5<sup>th</sup> Buffs (East Kent Regiment).**

## COOPER C.E.J

**Private G/42776 Charles Edmund John COOPER. 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.** Died 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917 aged 27 years. Born Godmersham. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Sutton, Deal, Kent. Son of Mr E Cooper of Manston Court/ Farm, Ripple, Kent. Husband of Annie Elizabeth Cooper of 85, West Street, Deal, Kent. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Cambrai Memorial, France. Panel reference 9.

Charles name appears on the Ripple civic war memorial in Kent.

## DODD C.T

**Private 31899 Charles Thomas DODD. 34<sup>th</sup> Labour Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).** Died Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 1916 aged 36 years. Born Chilham. Son of Charles and Minnie Dodd of The Lees, Chilham, Kent. Buried in the Puchevillers British Cemetery, The Somme, France. Grave reference V.D.6.

The Ashford 1918 Absentee Voters List gives –

Lower Ensden, Chilham

**Private 22269 Frank William DODD. Army Veterinary Corps.**

The 1901 census gives –  
The Lees, Chilham

Charles	DODD	43	Labourer	Chilham
Minnie		39		Godmersham
George		21		Godmersham
<b>Charles</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>Horseman</b>	<b>Godmersham</b>
Harriet		17		Godmersham
Frederick		15		Chilham
Frank		12		Chilham
Minnie		10		Chilham
Lilian		2		Chilham
Olive		1m		Chilham

## FURBOROUGH E.J

**Private 61514 Ernest James FURBOROUGH.11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment). Formerly (2393) 3<sup>rd</sup> Home Counties Royal Field Artillery (RFA).** Died 10<sup>th</sup> January 1918 aged 35 years. Born Godmersham. Enlisted Margate. Son of James Furborough of Tyrone House, Clifton Gardens, Margate, Kent. Husband of Emily Wellington (formerly Furborough) of 17, Fort Crescent, Cliftonville, Kent. Ernest has no known grave. His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium. Panel reference 28 to 30.

## JELL C (brother)

**Private G/3923 Charles George JELL. 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 13<sup>th</sup> October 1915 aged 22 years. Resided Godmersham. Son of George and Clara Jell of Townsend Cottages, St Margaret's, Dover, Kent. Charles has no known grave. His name appears on the Loos Memorial, France. Panel reference 15 to 19.

Charles was killed in action when his battalion attacked German positions at Hulluch in France. The attack was made under a smoke screen and was supported by artillery. The Buffs were to attack to the east end of the quarries and were told to join up with the 7<sup>th</sup> East Surrey's. The Germans countered with murderous machine gun fire and it was this that accounted for most of the battalion's casualties. The battalion lost 400 men killed or wounded.

## JELL P (brother)

**Rifleman 593500 Percy Frank JELL.. 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). Formerly (3462) 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918 aged 23 years. Resided Godmersham. Son of George and Clara Jell of Townsend Cottages, St Margaret's, Dover, Kent. Buried in the Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Grave reference III.F.24.

## KING A.E

**Corporal 28602 Albert Edward KING. 155<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA).** Died 14<sup>th</sup> October 1916. Born Strood, Kent. Resided Godmersham, Kent. Buried in the Bray-Sur-Somme French National Cemetery, France. Grave reference 582.



## POTTER E

**Private 75916 Ernest POTTER. 2/2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Formerly (TR/9/14524) T.R.B.** Died 15<sup>th</sup> April 1918 aged 20 years. Born Bilting. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Waltham, Canterbury. Son of Frederick and Alice Potter of Longneck House, Waltham, Canterbury, Kent. Buried in the Morevil Communal Cemetery, Allied Extension, France. Grave reference E.17.

The 1901 census gives –  
Bilting, Godmersham

Frederick	POTTER	43	Bricklayer	Chart, Kent
Alice		38		Willesborough
Robert		15	Labourer	Charing
Frederick		13		Charing
William		11		Canterbury
Alice		9		Ashford
Harry		6		Ashford
<b>Ernest</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>Willesborough</b>
A baby		1m		Godmersham

## SAGE S

**Private 6333 Sidney SAGE. 10<sup>th</sup> (Prince of Wales's Own Royal) Hussars.** Died 17 November 1914 aged 19 years. Brother of Alfred Sage of 6 Godmersham Park Estate, Godmersham, Ashford, Kent. Sidney has no known grave. His name appears on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Panel reference – 5.

