

Hadlow



The Hadlow civic war memorial is located in Hadlow Cemetery, and was erected in October 1920. As early as 1919 a memorial to commemorate the Hadlow Great War fallen had been commissioned, which is in the form of an impressive stained glass memorial window in the parish church of St. Mary's. On 7 January 1920 the memorial window was dedicated by the Bishop of Rochester; the Right Reverend John Reginald Harmer D.D., and unveiled by Major-General Sir Charles V.R. Townshend K.C.B., D.S.O., prior to his resignation from the army later the same year. As is unfortunately the situation at virtually every other location in Kent and elsewhere, the Hadlow civic war memorial has casualties' resultant of both the two world wars that are not commemorated on it. As can be seen when viewing the photographs by Susan F, which accompany the following brief transcriptions, the memorial is in immaculate condition, having been refurbished to their usual high standard by the staff of The Stone Shop, Monumental Masons & Memorials, Station Hill, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent.

The Great War

1914 -1919

ALDRIDGE, A. No clear trace at this time.

BAKER, WILLIAM. Private, 42076.
4th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.
Died 10 April 1918. Aged 21.
Born Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted and resided Hadlow, Kent.
Son of William and Emily Baker of Carpenter's Lane, Hadlow, Kent.
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Berks Cemetery Extension, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 5.
Formerly Private, 32718, Royal Army Service Corps.

BARDEN, ALBERT JAMES Gunner, 40112.
6th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Died Saturday 13 April 1918.
Born East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Edward and Philadelphia Barden (née Parker).
Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Grave III. G. 41.
Commemorated on the East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Barden family resided at Little Mill, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 35 year old Tonbridge, Kent, native Edward Barden who was employed as a Labourer in a Tanyard. Mrs. Philadelphia Barden was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 37 year old native of East Peckham, Kent.

BARTON, WILLIAM. Private, 56301.
9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
Died 14 June 1918. Aged 26.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Whitehall, Middlesex.
Son of William G. and Alice Barton of Mount Pleasant, Three Oaks, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Formerly Private, 31367, Gloucestershire Regiment.
Commemorated on the Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France.

BENNETT, HERBERT BISHOP. Boy Telegraphist, J/55130.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Boxer.
Died 8 February 1918. Aged 17.
Born Hoxton, London 16 December 1900.
Adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Sandwell of 10, Adrian Square, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 29, and on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent British Legion Memorial.
H.M.S. Boxer was a 250 ton Royal Navy Ardent class torpedo boat destroyer that was launched in 1894. On 6 February 1918, she collided with H.M.S. Decoy but survived the incident without much damage or loss of life. Just two days after the collision with H.M.S. Decoy Herbert's ship collided again, on that occasion it was with the hospital ship St. Patrick, just to the south east of Dunnose Point. On the latter occasion H.M.S. Boxer suffered a significant amount of structural damage, and Herbert lost his life, being the only crew member who was killed. The day after colliding with H.M.S. Decoy, H.M.S. Boxer finally she came to rest South of Culver Cliff in the middle of Sandown Bay, Isle of Wight and sunk. At the time of her loss H.M.S. Boxer was the Royal Navy's oldest serving destroyer.

BURR, GEORGE ROBERT. Lance Corporal, 42004.
22nd Battalion, Manchester Regiment.
Died 4 October 1917. Aged 27.
Born Marden, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of John and Celie Burr.
Husband of Elizabeth Ann Collings (formerly Burr), of 172, Solihull Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, Warwickshire.
Buried Hooge Crater Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. B. 6.
Formerly Private, G/32688, Middlesex Regiment.

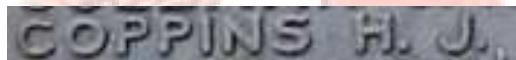
BUSS, ROBERT WILLIAM. Private, 11777.
10th (Service) Battalion, (Kent County) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 20 May 1917. Aged 22.
Born Watlington, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Robert Markham Buss and Flora Edith Buss (née Newman).
Husband of Edith Ellen Buss (née Bassett) of Hadlow Stair, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: XII. B. 14.

Commemorated on the Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census the Buss family resided at Fullers Corner, Wateringbury, Maidstone, Kent, where 31 year old Nettlestead, Kent, native Robert Buss was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house, and employed as a Farm Labourer. When Robert enlisted in the army on 10 December 1915, he stated that he was a Labourer, and named his wife as his next-of-kin. Robert and Edith had married at the parish church of St. Mary, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, on 27 November 1915. Following his army enlistment, Robert was mobilised on 21 January 1916 and posted the following day. Robert was serving as one of the battalion Signallers when he was accidentally shot by one of his comrades when he was making his way down a trench to get his breakfast, when he was hit in his right thigh by a bullet accidentally discharged by Frank Martin who was on sentry duty. Frank was tried and convicted of the offence by a Field General Court Marshall on 25 May 1917. Frank was awarded 42 days Field Punishment No.1 with nil remission, by the G.O.C., 123 Infantry Brigade. At the Court Marshall on 25 May 1917, Lance Corporal Herbert Philpott stated that he was in charge of No. 9 Sentry Post between 0630 hours and 0700 hours on 4 May 1917, when the battalion was in front line trenches, and also stated that he had ordered two of the sentries to clean their rifles, one of which was Frank Martin, Herbert Philpott saw Frank remove the magazine from his rifle and place it on the ground, and said that about a minute later he heard a report when Robert was hit. Frank also submitted a statement, saying that he had not realised that there was a round in the breech when he squeezed the trigger on his rifle. Of all the different statements etcetera collected following Robert's wounding, was that submitted in writing by Robert himself, the end of which says "It was quite an accident."

CLARKE. A. E. No clear trace at this time.



COPPINS, HUGH JOSEPH. Stoker 2nd Class, K/15587.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Pathfinder.

Died 5 September 1914. Aged 20.

Born Saint Mary Cray, Kent 30 April 1894.

Son of George and Mary Coppins.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 6, a shown above.

H.M.S. Pathfinder was a 2,900 ton Pathfinder Scout Class cruiser which was built by Cammell Laird & Co Ltd at Birkenhead. She was launched on 16 July 1904 and commissioned on 18 July 1905. At the time of the start of the Great War H.M.S. Pathfinder was the leader of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla based at Rosyth, Scotland. On Saturday 5 September 1914 and running short of coal, H.M.S. Pathfinder was only making 5 knots at the time of her loss, which was at approximately 1630 hours when she was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea off St. Abbs Head, Berwickshire, Scotland, approximately 10 miles to the southwest of the Island of May, by the type U19 Mittel-U class, German uboat U-

21, which at the time was commanded by Leutnant zur See, Otto Hersing. H.M.S. Pathfinder has the unenviable distinction of being the first Royal Navy warship to be sunk by a u-boat of the Imperial German Navy during the Great War, and the first ship ever to be sunk by the use of a torpedo alone fired from a submarine. H.M.S. Pathfinder was struck by the torpedo in one of her magazines, which exploded causing the ship to sink within a few minutes with the loss of 259 men; there were only 11 survivors of the sinking. Having sunk 36 ships for a total of 78,712 tons (warships excluded), on Wednesday 22 February 1919 the U-21 was sunk as the result of an accident whilst on passage to surrender to the allied powers. Later promoted to Kapitänleutnant, Otto Hersing survived the Great War, and when interviewed by the journalist Lowell Thomas during the inter war years, as to what he did for a living, Otto Hersing told him that he was a Potato Farmer, which took the journalist by surprise as he was expecting him to answer with something of a nautical bent. The superb U-boat museum at Cuxhaven-Altenbruch, Germany contains a lot of ephemera appertaining to Otto Hersing including his Log Book, that notes in detail the events leading up to the loss of H.M.S. Pathfinder, part of which describes the weather which prevailed at the time: - "For a terrible time, snow storms and fog, reason why as soon as we could see nothing, only black cloud strips twisting in grotesques forms in front of us. But we had to cross the British lines protected by the fog."

DOLAN, WILLIAM CARR. Rifleman, 2358.

2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

Died 14 March 1915. Aged 25.

Born and enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Robert Carr Dolan of 110, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Formerly of 1, School Lane, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

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

It was specifically for service in the Rifle Brigade, that William enlisted as a regular soldier for a term of 7 years with the colours and 5 years in the reserve, on 9 October 1907. At the time of his enlistment, William stated that he was 18 years and 10 months old, and employed as a Cycle Mechanic. Most of William's pre Great War service was spent in India. His brother Harry who was also a regular soldier, served as a Private in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and as a Corporal in the Machine Gun Corps, their brother Charley enlisted in the Royal Navy a Boy and served as a Signaller, both of William's brothers served during the Great War.

FIELD, F. No clear trace. Appears to have been an additional casualty who was added post the inscribing of the names of the Great War dead. As can be seen on the relevant accompanying photograph, the name of this casualty has been added at the end of the Great War Hadlow commemorations. We have taken the liberty of adding his name here for ease of viewing. Although there are a number of possible tenuous matches, arguably the best is the following casualty:-

FIELD, FREDERICK JAMES. Private, 2240.

1st /4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 3 June 1915. Aged 45.

Born Lambeth, London. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of the late John and Sarah Field.

Husband of Rebecca Field (née Burrows) of 24, Pembury Grove, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, India. Face 7.

Formerly Private, 2240, 1st (Volunteer) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and Private, 3136, 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). As a time elapsed former member of the 1st (Volunteer) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Frederick enlisted for a 4 year term of service within the United Kingdom with the Territorial Force on 8 September 1914, but at the same time he also signed a copy of Army Form E.624, agreeing to serve outside the United Kingdom in the event of a National emergency, the Great War being such an event. As the consequence of agreeing to overseas service, Frederick was posted to India with the 1st /4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and died of Heatstroke at Jubbulpore, Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, India. At the time of the 1891 census, when the then 20 year old Frederick resided with his widowed mother Sarah Field at 38, St. Stephens Street, Tonbridge, Kent, he was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Boot Maker.

FERMOR, DAVID. Gunner, 155129.

"D" Battery, 282nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 4 November 1917. Aged 19.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of R. Flint of 7, Castle Terrace, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: XIII. A. 13.

Depending on what data source are checked, results in David's surname being shown as FERMER, FIRMER, FERMORE, FERMOUR, and FERMOR. The latter spelling appears to be correct, which how it is spelt on the Hadlow civic war memorial. At the time of the 1901 census, David resided with his parents George and Nellie Fermor at Leeds Bank, Hadlow. Head of the house was 35 year old Crowborough, Sussex native George Fermor, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but possibly David was a relative (cousin?) of fellow Hadlow native, Lance Sergeant Alfred Albert Fermer of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), who fell on 19 October 1917. Alfred has been commemorated as one of the Hadlow Great War 'Lost Men' which follow these brief commemorations of those who have been commemorated on the Hadlow civic war memorial.

GARDENER, WILLIAM GEORGE. Lance Corporal, 201010.
3rd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 30 January 1918. Aged 19.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of John and Elizabeth Gardener (née Richardson) of Maidstone Road, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: IV. E. 40.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Gardener family resided at Maidstone Road, Hadlow. Head of the house was 42 year old Hadlow native John Gardener, who was employed as a Bricklayer.

GARDINER, THOMAS HAROLD. Private, S/9151.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 18 April 1915. Aged 22.
Born and resided Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of George Gardiner of 1, Alma Place, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 45.
When Thomas enlisted in the Territorial Force on 22 March 1911, he stated that he was 19 years and 6 months old. Prior to the Great War, as part of his Territorial Force commitments, Thomas attended annual camps at Crowborough, Worthing and Seaford whilst serving as Private 1133 in the 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Having satisfactorily fulfilled his Territorial Force engagement, on 16 June 1914 Thomas was transferred to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) of the Army Special Reserve. His character having been assessed as "Good," whilst serving as a Territorial, at the time of signing his documentation for 6 years service in the Army Special Reserve, Thomas stated that he was employed as a Factory Labourer. On the first day of the Great War Thomas was mobilized, and on 7 December 1914 he was posted to the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) for service in the British Expeditionary Force. As can be seen on the relevant accompanying photograph, unfortunately Thomas is erroneously commemorated on the Hadlow civic war memorial with his surname spelt GARDENER.

GOODSELL, JESSE. Private G/24638
7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 23 March 1918.
Born Hawkhurst, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Hadlow, Kent.
Son of James and Harriett Goodsell.
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 14
Formerly Private, 19562, East Surrey Regiment.
After the Great War when Jesse's mother submitted a formal application to be sent his medals, she was residing at Stream Farm, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent

GREEN, GEORGE. Private, G/24609.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 8 August 1918. Aged 21.

Born and enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Golden Green, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of James and Mary Green of Hartlake Cottages, Golden Green, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 7.

HATCHER, JOHN. Private, G/20680.

"C" Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.

Died 23 November 1917. Aged 22.

Born Cranbrook, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of George and Ada Hatcher of Gammons Land, Hadlow Place, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 86.

HUMPHREY, CHARLES. Private, L/9914.

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

Died 14 November 1914.

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

Son of Henry and Sarah J. Humphrey of High Street, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 45.

When Charles enlisted in the army as a regular soldier, for a term of 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Army Reserve on 29 July 1912, he stated that he was 18 years and 1 month old, and that he was employed as a Billiard Ball Maker. Prior to having been accepted for service in the army, the Reverend Sinclair Howard Monypenny of Hadlow Vicarage who had been the Vicar of Hadlow since 1908, had provided a letter in support of Charles's application in February 1912, at which time he had stated that he had known Charles for 10 years, and knew that he was sober and honest. Another letter of support was also provided by Charles's employer; Mr. Davis of The Vines, Godden Green, Kent who also gave Charles a good reference. At the commencement of the Great War, Charles was serving in the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) at Richmond Barracks, Dublin, Ireland. Having served within the United Kingdom until 14 August 1914, when Charles sailed with his battalion for France onboard the SS Gloucestershire, at which time the battalion commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. Martyn, numbered 26 officers and 1,015 other ranks. Having carried out numerous moves of operational necessity, on 13 November 1914 during the 'First Battle of Ypres, Charles's battalion took over front line trenches near the Ypres-Comines canal at Klein Zillebeke, where Charles was killed in action the following day, possibly resultant of enemy shelling.

KENNEDY, D. No clear trace at this time.

LAKER, PERCY GEORGE. Private, G/18980.

“A” Company, 8th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 7 November 1918. Aged 34.

Born Reigate, Surrey. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Aylesford, Kent.

Son of George and Jane Ann Laker (née Sparshott) of Leavers Cottage, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Husband of Edith Rose Laker (née Goodhew) of 4 Pollyfield Cottages, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent. Formerly of 13, Pratling Street, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 7, and on the Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, 1111, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). When Percy had lived at Hadlow as boy, he resided with his grandparents James and Harriott Sparshott at The Barracks. Percy married Miss Edith Rose Goodhew at the parish church of St. Marys Hadlow on 19 November 1910. He originally enlisted in the Territorial Force on 6 March 1911 for 4 years service in the United Kingdom at which time he resided with his wife at Castle View, Hadlow. On 17 March 1916, Percy was re-engaged ‘For the Duration of the War,’ and on 22 June 1916, whilst serving in the 3/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Percy signed a copy of Army Form No.324 agreeing to serve outside the United Kingdom. As the direct result of having agreed to overseas service, on 3 December 1916 Percy was posted to France to join the 8th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). He joined his new battalion in the field on Christmas Day 1916. On 30 January 1917, Percy received a gunshot wound to his head and was initially treated at the 73rd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, which was one of the three Field Ambulances that were attached to the 24th Division to which Percy’s battalion belonged. Following his initial treatment at the 73rd Field Ambulance, Percy was transferred to the No.1 Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps at Chocques in the Pas de Calais, and later spent time convalescing prior to returning to duty on 19 February 1917.

MANKELOW, HERBERT CHARLES. Private, G/18982.

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

Died 3 February 1918. Aged 28.

Born and enlisted Hadlow, Kent.

Son of Adelaide Mankelow of 210, Tonbridge Road Maidstone, Kent, and the late George Mankelow.

Buried Hargicourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France. Grave Ref: I. I. 13.

MASON, SAMUEL. Lance Corporal, 203557.
2nd Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment.
Died 20 August 1918. Aged 24.
Enlisted London. Resided Haslingden, Lancashire.
Foster son of Sarah Barton of Freehold, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried St. Pol British Cemetery, St. Pol-sur-Ternoise, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: II. B. 10.

MATTHEWS, JESSE. Private, 27390.
10th (Service) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Died 18 November 1916.
Born and resided Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.
Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B.
Formerly Private, 5986, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment).

MAY, WILLIAM. Sapper, 541369.
495th Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 11 November 1918. Aged 41.
Born Hadlow, Kent.
Son of Robert and Mary May of Golden Green, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Husband of Eleanor M.A. May of 46, Wood Street, Old Brompton, Chatham, Kent.
Beirut War Cemetery, Lebanese Republic. Grave Ref: 111.
William served in the South African War (Mediterranean).

MAYHEW, E. No clear trace at this time.

MONYPENNY, JOHN HOWARD. Private, 436649.
49th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment).
Died 9 October 1916. Aged 35.
Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent 11 December 11 1880.
Son of the late Reverend Philips Howard Monypenny B.A., and of Emma Melasina Monypenny (née McMunn).
Commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, and on page 137 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.
When John enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on 29 January 1915 he stated that he was a Farmer, and named his brother Brockett Monypenny of Cooking Lake, Alberta, Canada, as his next of kin. John's late father; the Reverend Philips Howard Monypenny B.A. (1837-1913) was a former Vicar of Hadlow, Kent. Another one of the John's brothers; the Reverend Sinclair Howard Monypenny, Th.Assoc.K.C., (1870-1951) of Hadlow Vicarage was the Vicar of Hadlow from 1908 to 1951. John's family had been associated with the parish church of St. Mary's at Hadlow for many years, and he was a direct descendant of the Reverend James Isaac Monypenny

who was the incumbent 1840-1871. It was noted by the transcriber whilst researching the Hadlow casualties that at the time of the Great War the living at St. Mary's at Hadlow was in the gift of Charlton James Blackwell Monypenny of Pitmilly, the 27th Laird of Pitmilly (1867-1947). One of John's nephews; Squadron Leader, John Blackwell Sinclair Monypenny R.A.F. died on 20 July 1940, and is also commemorated on the Hadlow civic war memorial. Of Kent military interest is that both of the Hadlow Monypenny casualties were of the same line as James Robert Blackwell Monypenny of Pitmilly, the 26th Laird of Pitmilly, J.P., M.A. Trinity College, Cambridge. Honorary Colonel of the 4th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who was born on 25 September 1835 and died on 22 May 1886. The Monypenny family has also been remembered at Hadlow by the naming of Monypenny Close.

MOORE, FREDERICK THOMAS. Private, 248034.
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Durham Light Infantry.
Died 23 April 1917.
Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 8.
Formerly Private, 5157 & 10844, Durham Light Infantry. Unfortunately the few pages of Frederick's service papers which survive are in a 'faded' state. Frederick enlisted in the army in 1916. He was posted to the 2nd/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Durham Light Infantry on 16 July 1916.

PARKS, CHARLES WILLIAM. Able Seaman, SS/6172.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Marmion.
Died 21 October 1917. Aged 20.
Born West Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent 15 May 1897.
Son of Maxey Moses Parks and Sarah Parks (née Barton) of Hadlow, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 22.

PAYNE, FRANK HENRY. Private, G/13189.
7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died 12 December 1916
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Husband of Kate Payne of 3, Castle Terrace, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref: II. J. 3.

POPE, ALFRED. Driver, 541175.
495th Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 6 November 1918. Aged 32.
Born Hadlow, Kent.
Son of John and Emily Pope of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Husband of Amy Pope of Rose Cottage, Pitts Wood, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: E. 189.

PRESNELL, ERNEST GEORGE. Corporal, R/17482,
8th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Killed in action
Died 15 September 1916. Aged 24.
Born and resided Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted London.
Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Presnell of Court Lane, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Serre Road No.2 Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: XXXVI. B. 2.

SANDS, W. The best match for this casualty appears to be the following man:-

SANDS, WILLIAM. Private, S/1150.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 18 April 1915. Aged 35.
Born and enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of the late Thomas and Charlotte Sands.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 46.
William's late father had been employed locally as a Roads Surveyor.

SAUNDERS, FREDERICK ARTHUR. Private, T/207028.
11th (Service) Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 1 August 1917. Aged 34.
Born Plymouth, Devon. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Hadlow, Kent.
Husband of Elizabeth A. Saunders of 14, Houselands Road, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 13.
Formerly Private, 290281, Suffolk Regiment.

SAUNDERS, WALTER BERTRAM. Company Serjeant Major, L/4607.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 24 August 1914.
Burn Newington Butts, Essex. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Caroline Saunders of Court Lane, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, and of the
late George Saunders.
Husband of Frances Amelia Saunders (née Costin) of 39, Scott Street,
Maidstone, Kent.
Buried Hautrage Military Cemetery, Saint-Ghislain, Hainaut, Belgium.
Grave Ref: I. B. 12.

Walter was aged 18 years and 1 month, when he enlisted in the army as a regular soldier for a term of 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve on 11 November 1895, at which time he was employed as a General Labourer, and was also a member of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). On 12 December 1902, Walter was posted to the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), at which time he was a Corporal. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 1 June 1902, and to a Colour Sergeant on 13 December 1905, and was also re-engaged to enable him to complete 21 years service in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). In addition to obtaining army educational qualifications, Walter also qualified in Musketry at Hythe, Kent. Prior to the Great War, in addition to his service in the United Kingdom, Walter had also served in India, Egypt and Malta, and from 16 March

1900 to 3 October 1901 he had taken part in the Second Boer War in South Africa. During his time spent in South Africa, Walter had been severely wounded at Klerksdorp. On 5 July 1903, Walter married Miss Frances Amelia Costin at the parish church of St. Crispin's, Bermondsey. Following the engagement with the enemy at the village of Wasmes, Hainaut, Belgium by his battalion, Walter was posted as missing, but was later deemed to have been killed in action.

SELLINGS, FRED. Driver, 67915.

"V" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.

Died 3 March 1915. Aged 24.

Born Wadhurst, Sussex. Enlisted Ticehurst, Sussex.

Son of Fred and Sarah Ann Sellins of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Aire Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: I. A. 8.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Sellings family resided at 19, Woods Green Cottages, Born Wadhurst, Sussex. Head of the house was 38 year old Wadhurst native Fred Sellins (senior), who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. On some of the data sources checked, Fred (junior) is shown with his surname spelt SELLINS or SELLENS. He was posted to France on 16 December 1914. Fred was a brother of Horace Sellings who is the next casualty commemorated below.

SELLINGS, HORACE JASPER. Private, 43285.

15th (Service) Battalion, Welsh Regiment, (Carmarthenshire).

Died 16 August 1916.

Born Wadhurst, Sussex. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Barry, Glamorganshire, Wales.

Son of Fred and Sarah Ann Sellins of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Guillemont Road Cemetery, Guillemont, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: IX. B. 3.

It would seem likely that Horace had married a lady with the surname Massom, their marriage having been registered in the Cardiff, Glamorganshire, Wales registration district during the third quarter of 1916. The situation re data sources as mentioned at the brief commemoration of Horace's brother Fred Sellings is also applicable in the case of Horace. On the census entry referred to above, Horace was recorded by the enumerator as being 8 years old, and as such he would have been about 23 years old when he lost his life on the Somme.

SHARPE, G.T. As commemorated on the Hadlow civic war memorial is possibly George Thomas Sharpe, who was the son of James and Annie Sharpe. At the time of the 1901 census the Sharp family resided at Kelchers Lane, Golden Green, Hadlow. Head of the house was 42 year old Marden, Kent native James Sharpe, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. George Thomas Sharpe was recorded by the enumerator as being a 19 year old native of Marden, and employed as a General Labourer. George's brother; William Sharpe served as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers during the Great War, and was discharged on 3 March 1919, at which time his home address was 10, Bell Cottages, Golden Green, Hadlow.

SINGER, AMOS LEWIS. Lance Bombadier, 34585.

5th Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 18 October 1918.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Golders Green, Middlesex. (Please see below).

Commemorated on the Tehran Memorial, Tehran War Cemetery, Gulhak, Iran.

Panel 1, Column 1.

The 5th Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery to which Amos belonged, was a regular formation which at the commencement of the Great war was stationed at Intogh in the 3rd (Indian) Division. Prior to service in Mesopotamia, Amos's battery had also served on the Western Front. The Tehran Memorial, on which Amos is commemorated, commemorates casualties of the Indian, United Kingdom and New Zealand Forces who lost their lives during the campaign in Iran (formerly known as Persia) and who have no known grave. It also commemorates some of those who died in the neighbouring regions of Russia whose graves are unknown or unmaintainable. Amos's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district during the second quarter of 1893, and as such he would have been about 25 year old when he died. Places of birth, enlistment and residence were accessed from Amos's SDGW entry, mention is made of same due to the thousands of mistakes which it contains, and the similarity between Golders Green, Middlesex, and Golden Green, Hadlow.

SMITH, GEORGE. Private, 550708.

441st Agricultural Company, Labour Corps.

Died 1 November 1918. Aged 19.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Sible Hedingham, Halstead, Essex.

Son of Edwin Smith of Hayes Cottages, Three Elms Lane, Hadlow, Kent, and of the late Mary Smith.

Buried Netley Military Cemetery, Hampshire. Grave Ref: C.E. 1985.

Formerly Private, 91063, 25th Training Reserve Battalion. Prior to enlisting for military service at Maidstone, Kent on 3 September 1917, George had a long history of medical complaints which had been duly noted by the No.6 Travelling Medical Board at his medical examination. As the result of having suffered Rheumatic Fever at the age of six, and had for some time suffered with Haemoptysis (coughing up blood), George was adjudged to be in 'Poor' physical condition and placed in the B2 category, prior to being called up to start his army service on 3 October 1917. Having initially served in the 25th Recruit Distribution Battalion, George was transferred to the Labour Corps on 23 April 1918, and was posted to the 441st Agricultural Company which was based at the Regimental Depot of the Hampshire Regiment at Winchester. It was from the Medical Centre at Winchester, that George was taken to the Royal Victoria Military Hospital, Netley, Hampshire on 12 October 1918 for more specialized treatment. Despite all of the efforts by the medical staff who attended George at Netley, at 2130 hours on 1 November 1918 he died at the hospital of Tubercular of the Lungs and Pneumonia.

STAPLEY, HOWARD JOSEPH. Private, 44063.

9th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Died 22 July 1917. Aged 31.

Born and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Stapley of 57, Culverden Park Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: I. T. 40.

Formerly Private, 4068, Suffolk Regiment. Howard's father; Joseph Stapley who was a native of Dallington, Sussex, had been a Grocer and Draper with his shop located in the High Street, Hadlow, at which time after leaving school Howard had been employed by his father as his assistant.

TAYLOR, HENRY. Trooper, 3032.

1st Life Guards.

Died 19 May 1918. Aged 22.

Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Jacob and Mary Taylor of Barnes Place, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: LXVI. C. 19.

TAYLOR, WILLIAM CHARLES VINCENT. Lance Corporal, 19418.

11th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, attached to the 101st Brigade, Trench Mortar Battery.

Died 3 July 1916. Aged 24.

Husband of Eva M. Dolan (formerly Taylor), (née Smith), of High Street, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

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

Grave Ref: A. 22. 14.

At the time of the 1901 census, William was a 7 year old Inmate at the Fegans Children Home, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Unfortunately William's place of birth was recorded by the census enumerator as Unknown.

TOWN, C. Arguably the best match for this casualty is the following soldier:-

TOWN, CHARLES FREDERICK. Private, 69143.

9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 27 April 1918.

Born East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent. Resided Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Charles and Elizabeth Town.

Buried Mailly Wood Cemetery, Mailly-Maillet, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: II. H. 7.

Commemorated on the East Sutton, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, SE/4165, Royal Army Veterinary Corps. A Charles F. Town married Hadlow, Kent native Miss Dora Palmer, their marriage being registered in the Tonbridge registration district during the second quarter of 1914.

TUFNELL, ARTHUR. Bandsman, 10153.
2nd Battalion, Highland Light Infantry.
Died 12 November 1914. Aged 23.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted and resided London.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 38.
Arthur was posted to France on 14 August 1914. Unfortunately on this occasion it has not been possible to add additional family details appertaining to Arthur. Somewhat ironically, Arthur has a brief entry in de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, which states that he was killed in action at Poperinghe on 12 November 1914.

WARREN, HENRY EDWIN. Private, F/2585.
12th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.
Died 3 May 1917.
Born and resided Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of William and Louisa Warren.
Husband of Edith May Warren (née Wickham) of 97, Priory Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.
Henry married Miss Edith May Wickham at the parish church of St. Mary's, Hadlow, Kent on 3 May 1913. When Henry enlisted in the army on 10 December 1915 he stated that he was 25 years old and was employed as a Farm Labourer. On 8 April 1916 Henry was mobilized and posted to the 27th (Reserve) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment two days later. On 23 August 1916, Henry was posted to France with the 17th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Henry served in the latter battalion for only a short time, as he was transferred to the 12th (Service) Battalion of his regiment on 5 September 1916, and then remained in that battalion until he was killed in action on 3 May 1917.

WARREN, STANLEY JAMES REGINALD. Corporal, 13677.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 29 March 1918. Aged 24.
Born and resided Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Ashford, Kent.
Son of Aubrey and Lucy Jane Warren (née Roe) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No1, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: V. B. 2.

WICKENS, STEPHEN FREDERICK. Lance Corporal, 11618.
10th (Service) Battalion, (Kent County), Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 29 September 1918. Aged 27.
Born Linton, Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Wickens.
Husband of E. P. Wickens, of 10, Leeds Cottages, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: I. J. 22

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Men

ATKINSON, SIDNEY EDWARD. Rifleman, 4911.

2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 31 October 1914. Aged 31.

Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Birmingham. Resided Gloucester.

Son of Mr. A. E. Atkinson of "Crophorne," Hucclecote, Gloucestershire.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 51.

Sidney was aged 19 years and 1 month when he enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps on 3 October 1902, for a term of 3 years as a regular soldier, and 9 years in the reserve, at which time he stated that he was employed as a Salesman. Whilst serving at Malta in 1905, Sidney's term of regular service was extended to 8 years. On the completion of his regular army commitment, Sidney was placed on the reserve at Shorncliffe, Kent on 21 October 1910, which resulted in him being recalled for war service at the commencement of the Great War.

BARTON, HARRY. Private, TF/6472.

1/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 8 October 1916.

Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Hadlow, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 12 D and 13 B.

CLAPSON, FREDERICK THOMAS. Private, 24967.

4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died 25 September 1916. Aged 25.

Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted St. Neots, Cambridgeshire.

Son of William and Elizabeth Clapson.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 8 D, and on the East Peckham, Kent civic war memorial.

COLE, JACK. Private, 205680.

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

Died 12 October 1917.

Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Elham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 106, and on the Elham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial, also on memorial in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Elham, Kent.

Formerly Private, 2680, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles.

COLES, JAMES. Private, 14367.

2nd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.

Died 8 July 1916.

Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Kettering, Northamptonshire.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 11 A and 11 D.

James was probably the son of Charles and Elizabeth Coles. At the time of the 1901 census, the Coles family resided at Steers Place, Hadlow, at which time James was recorded as being 3 years old by the enumerator. Head of the house was 36 year old Hadlow, Kent native Charles Cole, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer.

COLLINS, CHARLES HENRY. Private, F/2314.

23rd (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (2nd Football).

Died 11 November 1917. Aged 21.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Birmingham. Resided Sparkbrook, Birmingham, Warwickshire.

Son of John Richard Collins and Edith Collins of 21, Ellord Road, Streatham, London, SW16.

Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: IV. D. 6.

When Charles enlisted at the in the army, at the Army Recruiting Office in James Watt Street, Birmingham, 'For the Duration of the War,' on 11 November 1915, he stated that he was 19 years old, employed as a Shop Assistant, and resided at 6, Poplar Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham. Charles named his father as his next of kin, who resided at 21, Ellord Road, Streatham, London. At the time of his requisite medical examination, it was noted that Charles's physical development was 'Poor.' Two days after enlisting, Charles joined the 23rd (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (2nd Football) at Aldershot. On 3 May 1916, Charles was posted to France with his battalion for service with the British Expeditionary Force, despite the fact that on 19 December 1915, a Travelling Medical Board had recommended that Charles was "Temporarily Unfit For Foreign Service for 6 months." Prior to being posted to France, Charles had suffered from a number of ailments, which had included time being hospitalized at the Cambridge Military hospital at Aldershot. During August and September 1916, Charles was treated at a number of army medical units in France when he was suffering from Influenza. On 2 November 1917, Charles received a serious shrapnel wound to his left thigh, and was initially treated at the 10th Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps. Following his treatment at the 10th Casualty Clearing Station, Charles was treated at the 138th Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps, before eventually arriving at the 13th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne-sur-Mer, where he succumbed to his wounds at 2030 hours on 11 November 1917. It was noted whilst researching the Hadlow casualties, that unfortunately Charles is erroneously commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as being Henry Charles Collins.

DARTNALL, FREDERICK JOHN. Private, 42733.

11th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Died Tuesday 29 October 1918.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Alice Dartnall of 12, Boulogne Cottage, East Peckham, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Vendegies Cross Roads British Cemetery, Bermerain, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: B. 13.

Commemorated on the East Peckham, Kent civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, TR/9/72279, 25th Training Reserve Battalion.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Dartnall family resided at Pierce Mill, Hadlow. Head of the house was 34 year old Capel, Kent native Thomas Dartnall, who was employed as a Pump Minder at a Tanyard. Frederick was recorded by the enumerator as being 2 years old, and as such it would seem likely that the census address was where he was actually born, and would also indicate that at the time of his death Frederick was only about 20 years old.

EXCELL, GEORGE HUMPHREY. Private, G/9132.

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

Died 3 August 1916.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted and resided Goudhurst, Kent.

Son of Henry and Mary Jane Excell of Cacketts Farm, Horsmonden, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D, and on the Horsmonden, Kent civic war memorial, as is his brother Sidney Edward Excell.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Excell family resided at August Pitts, Churn Lane, Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 41 year old Marden, Kent native Henry Excell, who was employed as a Farm Carter. When George enlisted in the army with his elder brother Sidney Edward Excell; 'For the Duration of the War' on 27 November 1915, he stated that he was 21 years and 215 days old, employed as a Farm Labourer, and that he resided at Cacketts Farm, Horsmonden, Kent. George carried out his initial training whilst serving in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Dover, Kent. On 19 May 1916 he was posted to France to serve in the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), in which he then remained until his death. Initially, George was posted as Missing & Wounded, but later for official purposes it was accepted that he had died of his wounds on 3 August 1916. George's was one of only three members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) that died that day. His brother Sidney who had enlisted with him at Gore Court, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, was numbered amongst the 35 other ranks in the battalion that were killed in action on the Pozières Ridge near the village of Thiepval on the Somme, the day after George died.

FERMER, ALFRED ALBERT. Lance Sergeant, L/10415.

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

Died 19 October 1917.

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

Son of Alfred and Elizabeth Fermer of 13, George Street, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: IV. B. 13.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Fermer family was residing at Leeds Bank, Hadlow. Head of the house was 33 year old Crowborough, Sussex native Alfred Fermer who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Residing two doors away on the night of the census, was 1 year old David Fermor who lost his life on 4 November 1917 whilst serving as a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. David is amongst the Hadlow Great War casualties who have been commemorated on the village civic war memorial. Mention is made here of David's commemoration because it would seem likely that he and Alfred were related, and appear to have been cousins. It seems a odd that David has quite properly been remembered and honoured in the village of his birth, but Albert has not been remembered in the same way. Depending on what data sources are checked, results in Albert's surname being shown as FERMER or FERMOR, it being less variants than that of David. Albert was an early Great War volunteer, as he enlisted in the army for General Service as a regular soldier for a term of 7 years with the Colours, and 5 years in the reserve on 7 August 1914. At the time of his enlistment, Alfred stated that he was 19 years old and employed as a Carman. He was attested to serve in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and joined at the regimental depot at Maidstone, Kent on 9 August 1914. On 24 August 1915 William was posted to the 7th (Service) Battalion of his regiment, for service in the British Expeditionary Force. On 27 January 1917 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and to an (unpaid) Lance Sergeant on 30 March 1917, and to a (paid) Lance Sergeant on 25 June 1917.

FRANCIS, JOHN EDWARD. Private, 1926.

1/1st Royal Berkshire Yeomanry.

Died 21 August 1915. Aged 28.

Born Kidmore End, Reading, Berkshire. Enlisted Reading, Berkshire. Resided Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Ida Mary Francis of Yorkshire.

Husband of C. N. Gasson (formerly Francis), of Ivy Cottage, Oxon Hoath Park, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 18, and on the West Peckham, Kent Great War parish tribute, which is in the form of a memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Dunstan's.

During the attack by the 1/1st Royal Berkshire Yeomanry on Hill 60 at Gallipoli when John fell, one of his comrades, Private Frederick Potts although wounded in the thigh, remained for over 48 hours under the Turkish trenches with Private Arthur Andrews, who was severely wounded and unable to move. 'Fred' fixed a shovel to the equipment of his wounded comrade, and using it as a sledge

dragged the wounded man back over 600 yards to safety, being under enemy fire all the way. For his heroism Frederick William Owen Potts (1892-1943) was awarded the Victoria Cross. It was not the first time that 'Fred' had risked his own life to save somebody else, as in 1913 Fred had saved a young boy from drowning in the River Thames. The village of Kidmore End where John Francis was born was formerly in the county of Berkshire, it is located 4 miles to the north of Reading, and as the result of the English county boundary changes, the village is now in the South Oxfordshire District of the County of Oxfordshire. The casualties from the village are commemorated in the parish church of St. John the Baptist, and via the Kidmore End War Memorial Hall.

GWYNNE, WILLIAM. Private, G/3430.
2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 16 May 1915. Aged 38.
Born Peckham, Surrey. Enlisted Southwark, Surrey. Resided Brixton, Surrey.
Son of Helen Gwynne and the late William Gwynne.
Husband of Sarah Gwynne of Park Villa, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Le Touret Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 4.

HEMMING, GEORGE F.W. Corporal, G/41102.
21st (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (Islington).
Died 23 March 1918.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Mill Hill, Middlesex. Resided Tottenham, Middlesex.
Son of Frederick W. Hemming and Henrietta Hemming.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.
It would appear that George had resided at Hadlow for less than five years, as at the time of the 1901 census the Hemming family resided at the High Street, Windlesham, Bagshot, Surrey. Arthur who five years younger than George was recorded as having been born at Anerley, Middlesex.

HILL, HENRY WILLIAM ARCHIBALD. Private, 21166.
3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.
Died 27 November 1917. Aged 23.
Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Henry Edward Hill of 18, Uridge Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 2.
Henry was posted to France on 11 August 1915.

HOLMES, GEORGE WILLIAM VERNEY. Private, G/4679.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 May 1915. Aged 29.
Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Thurnham, Bearsted, Kent.
Son of Richard and Lavina Holmes of Ware Street, Thurnham, Bearsted, Kent.

Husband of Gertrude Cecilia Dorothy Tolhurst (formerly Holmes) of Caring Farm, Leeds, Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 13. George was posted to France on 21 April 1915. On 1 May 1915, George's battalion had a fresh draft of other ranks join it in Belgium direct from England, who due primarily to time constraints were not initially allotted to the different companies within the 2nd Battalion, and it was decided to locate the new men in a new support trench in front of a wood. All of the positions occupied by the battalion were subjected to an extraordinary amount of enemy shellfire the day after the arrival of the fresh draft, with numerous casualties being inflicted on the battalion. Several commentators have made very similar comments when referring to the days' events, along the lines of the British artillery guns being virtually powerless to offer support and return shellfire onto the German artillery gun emplacements. Many of the same commentators, and also probably of more important significance and relevance, is some of the correspondence which was written by some of the survivors who had served in the battalion during late April and early May 1915, with the writers of same commenting about not getting artillery support due to the lack of the gunners ammunition. Many of the gunners also became casualties, as the direct result of being fired upon by enemy field guns. During the hours of darkness on the night of 2/3 May the intensity of the German shelling subsided, but at first light on the morning of Monday 3 May 1915, the artillery bombardment of the battalion positions was once again renewed. Throughout the whole of the day on Monday 3 May the enemy guns continued to fire at will, and as on the previous day, the doubtless frustrated British gunners were unable to offer all but a token reply. During the morning 38 year old Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon who was commanding at that time, reported many casualties, and that the trench parapets had been blown in and that the situation was critical. Later it became even worse, with the bombardment being so rapid as to being likened to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire. One of the trenches held by the battalion called D.5, was rushed by enemy infantry, but it would seem that none of the members of "C" Company who had been ensconced in the trench, were at that time in a position to offer any form of resistance during the German assault. Captain L. Howard Smith, Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, and approximately eighty other ranks had formerly occupied D.5, but had all been killed or wounded, and all were later reported as missing. At the time of Ernest's death, there were no communication trenches in common use, and as such the parties of soldiers of varying sizes, were to all intents and purposes isolated and cut-off from help and/or support once in place in the allocated trenches, or other forms of defensive cover such as shell holes, the reason being that as the engagements raged, it would have been far too hazardous to cross above ground between the trenches. Probably due to the fact that D.5 fell to the enemy, who had also possessed woods located behind that particular trench complex, it appears to have had the knock on effect of another trench (D.4), also being captured by enemy infantry. Following the capture of D.5, by the enemy soldiers, D.4 was then subjected to fire by the Germans, who had taken over the occupancy of the former 2nd Battalion trench.

Compounding the perilous position faced by the members of the battalion in D.4 was the enemy firing coming from the nearby wood in the enemies' hands. Captain Houblon, and a Lieutenant Sharp along with other what remained of "D" Company, and a few stragglers made gallant efforts to remain in trench D.4, but resulting from the firing coming in from both sides, their position became virtually un-defendable, necessitating a withdrawal along the trench line, a maneuver that was conducted with commendable steady order and control. To assist with the final withdrawal from D.4, at great risk to themselves, covering fire was provided by Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, and by Private, 7852, Frederick Campbell who were both members of "C" Company, miraculously both of whom managed to extricate themselves from the trench whilst under heavy fire. Although he was wounded during the fierce engagement, Lieutenant Sharp and the survivors of Captain Houblon's party eventually managed to reach trench D.3, and later reached D.1, which was held by Captain Barnard with "A" Company. A small party of members of the battalion led by Second Lieutenant, Ellis Brockman, Backhouse, and a company of soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), led by Captain R. Ford, did however manage to tenaciously hold on to a new support trench, during which time they were subjected to horrendous enfilade fire from enemy heavy howitzers and other artillery pieces. In much the same way that the earlier withdrawals had been steadily conducted, the battalion later moved back to bivouacs located in a wood near Poperinghe, taking with it all the wounded that could be moved, spare ammunition, tools, and equipment being taken with the battalion. Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and received his commission. The relevant London Gazette entry for his D.C.M., dated 30 June 1915, reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 3rd May 1915, in holding on to a trench to the last, covering the retirement of his men to another position. The enemy, of whom he killed many, were only yards away." Frederick Campbell who also made the heroic rearguard stand with Ernest G. Port D.C.M., apparently was not even Mentioned in Despatches, or "B" for Record, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers, and served as a Serjeant in a Railway Company. Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, was later promoted to Captain and became an Adjutant, Captain L. Howard Smith, was later promoted to Major, and Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon, who was a son of Colonel George Archer Houblon, was also promoted to the rank of Major, and was attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Major Henry Houblon later inherited the Hallingbury Place Estate, Essex which had been used extensively by the British army during the Great War, and offered it on lease, but possibly resultant of the prevailing economic climate which prevailed at that time no one came forward, and eventually it was put up for sale. In October 1923, the great house was demolished, and the materials and contents put up for sale and the estate broken up. Originally recorded as 'Missing,' for official purposes George was later deemed to have died on 3 May 1915.

HONEY, BERT. Private, 27411.

12th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, (Bermondsey).

Died 1 October 1918. Aged 18.

Born East Peckham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Ashford, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Elizabeth Honey.

Brother of Miss Alice Clara Honey of "Bell's Farm," Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 79, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, also on the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company war memorial at the Marine Station, Dover, Kent, and on the Ashford, Kent, (SE&CR) Railway Works Rolls of Honour that are in the safe keeping of Ashford Library.

On the latter form of his remembrance, Bert is commemorated as being a member of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). On the 1901 census, Bert was recorded by the enumerator as being Bertie Honey, at which time he resided with his parents at Goose Green, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old East Peckham native Frederick Honey, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. At the time of the compilation of the 1918 Absent Voters List, Bert resided at 10 Beaver Place, Ashford, Kent.

LAKER, HERBERT. Private, T/1273.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 7 January 1916. Aged 24.

Born West Grinstead, Horsham, Sussex. Enlisted Horsmonden, Tonbridge, Kent.

Resided Lamberhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Son of George and Jane Laker of Leavers Farm, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XXXI. C. 10.

Commemorated on the Lamberhurst, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Laker family resided at Boormans Farm, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old West Grinstead, Horsham, Sussex native George Laker, who was employed as a Farm Carrier. Herbert was posted to the Asiatic war theatre on 9 December 1915.

MAY, EDWARD HENRY. Private, 020776.

50th Mobile Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Died 25 August 1917. Aged 35.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Emily May of Shipbourne Green, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XII. C. 9.

PARKS, HAROLD FREDERICK. Private, 200413.

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

Died 1 June 1918. Aged 22.

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

Son of Frank William and Adelaide Parks of Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: LXV. E. 5.

PRITCHARD, CYRIL JOHN. Second Lieutenant.

98th Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 30 October 1918. Aged 25.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of the late Hugh John Pritchard and of Annie Pritchard.

Buried Quievrain Communal Cemetery, Quievrain, Hainaut, Belgium.

Grave Ref: A. 35.

Formerly Private, 100099, Hampshire Yeomanry, and Second Lieutenant, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Cyril was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the latter battalion on 28 May 1918. When he was killed in aerial combat to the north of Quievrain, Belgium, Cyril was in a DH9 (No. E8863) with Second Lieutenant H. W. Mitchell, who was wounded during the attack by Leutnant Otto Löffler of Jasta 2. When Cyril's aircraft was shot down it was the fifteenth and final victory credited to Otto Löffler during the Great War. Otto's son Kurt Löffler followed in his father's footsteps, and served in the Luftwaffe. During the Second World War, Kurt scored 26 victories and became an ace while serving with JG 51.

PULLEE, WILLIAM. Private, G/5108.

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

Died Wednesday 13 October 1915. Aged 39.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted New Romney, Kent. Resided St. Mary's Romney Marsh, Kent.

Son of the late George and Eliza Pullee (née Knott).

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 19, and in the parish church of St. Mary's, St. Mary's-in-the-Marsh, Romney Marsh, Kent. Although the CWGC commemoration in remembrance of William shows that his mother was dead, it was doubtless the result of the year that the additional family details were added by the then IWGC, after families had returned forms to the IWGC with the details. William's mother died (Romney Marsh) in 1925, and his father had died (Romney Marsh) in 1910. William's family had resided at several Kent locations, doubtless due to the fact that his father George who was a native of Ickham, Canterbury, Kent, was employed as a Police Constable by Kent County Council. In addition to the village of Hadlow where William and his sister Edith were born, the other children of George and Eliza Pullee were born at other Kent towns and villages, which were Hoo, Halling, Northfleet, Lenham, Burham, and Ulcombe. William was posted to France on 1 June 1915. For military historians and other interest parties, and in particular anybody who has had a specific interest in "The Buffs" throughout its long proud existence, certain dates and events appertaining to the regiment, for a variety of reasons both good and bad immediately spring to mind. The pointless and disastrous heroic attack that was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos 1915' is one such date. Unfortunately it is recalled not just for the gallantry displayed by all ranks on that fateful day, but also by the number of the battalion casualty return entries. Numerous commentators both professional and amateur, over quite a large span of years have made justifiable

comments along the lines that the overall casualties and losses to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Battle of Loos 1915,' are comparable to those of the 'Pals Battalions' that suffered so cruelly during the 'Battle of the Somme' the following year. Every time that the transcriber of these brief commemorations views the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner Cemetery, although visited numerous times, the events of the battle and the regiments involvement are recalled, as numbering 659 casualties, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) is sadly the regiment with the sixth highest number of its soldiers commemorated on the memorial, and apart from the 'Book of Life' in the Warriors Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, Kent, those honoured on the Loos Memorial constitute the largest remembrance of the regiments fallen anywhere in the world. During the battle the 8th (Service) Battalion had 558 known casualties including 24 officers, and the 6th (Service) Battalion had 409 known casualties including 18 officers. It should also be noted that only 7 members of the 6th (Service) Battalion, who fell on Wednesday 13 October 1915 are at rest in marked graves, the remainder having no known resting place and are all commemorated on the Loos Memorial. On Monday 11 October 1915 after a bitter and costly struggle by both sides engaged in the action, the German army recovered part of the Hohenzollern Redoubt and the made a resolute attack near Loos which was repulsed at an enormous cost. Two days later, orders were issued from the headquarters of the 12th (Eastern) Division for an attack on Hulluch, which were very detailed and precise in every respect. The 37th Brigade which had included Herbert's battalion was to be strengthened by a company of the Northamptonshire Regiment, with the 69th Field Company, Royal Engineers being tasked with joining up with the 35th Brigade. Unlike many other attacks which took place in the early hours of the morning, with darkness affording some protection, but the attack on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was scheduled to commence at 1400 hours in broad daylight. To help compensate for the use of lack of natural light, a smokescreen was detailed to be formed by the use of Threlfallite grenades and smoke candles. To help achieve the desired smokescreen, 1,000 Threlfallite grenades were issued to the troops holding the trenches, with two grenades being thrown into No Man's Land every four minutes, twenty five yards apart. The smoke candles were to be grouped together at the same distance and thrown over the parapet every two minutes. The objective that was designated for assault by the 6th (Service) Battalion at Hulluch on Wednesday 13 October 1915 was called 'Gun Trench.' As part of the plans for the attack by the 12th (Eastern) Division, a comprehensive plan of fire for the supporting artillery was drawn up which was timed to commence at noon and pause at 1257 hours for three minutes. At the resumption of the artillery bombardment rapid fire was ordered of a minute, thereafter resuming a rate of fire as prior to the brief cessation of firing, until 1400 hours when the infantry attack commenced. The decision by the planning officers re the artillery sequence of fire was quite sound, the thinking behind same being that the three minute respite of firing would fool the opposition into thinking that it was the start of an infantry attack, and that they would then quickly man their trenches and get caught by the brief bombardment of rapid fire. It was also envisaged that when the artillery ceased fire at 1400 hours with the

commencement of the infantry attack, the Germans would think that it was another ploy by the British to lure them back into the trenches. But as is sometimes the case in war, not all went according to the thorough plans that had been drawn up. Arguably the most costly setbacks on the actual day being the unsuccessful artillery barrages, combined with wholly ineffective smokescreen which was intended to hide the advance across No Mans Land, to the German lines on the reverse slope at 'Gun Trench.' Quite literally within minutes on Wednesday 13 October 1915, 189 men in the 6th (Service) Battalion were killed, and at least another 222 are known to have been wounded to varying degrees of severity, some of whom sadly had been mortally wounded, the majority of the deaths and woundings were as the result of well placed enemy machine guns. Resulting from the events carried out by William's battalion on Wednesday 13 October 1915 (which was its first battle of the war), other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

READER, WILLIAM LEVI. Private, L/8714.
4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 14 September 1914. Aged 28.
Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Harry and Emily Reader of Station Road, Jarvis Brook, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the La Ferte-sous-Jouarre, Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

SKINNER, ALBERT EDWARD. Driver, 2029.
1st/3rd Kent Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 28 October 1915. Aged 22.
Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Gillingham, Kent. Resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of Albert and Sabina Skinner.
Husband of Nellie C.F. Skinner (née Lawrence) of 70, Queens Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 25, and on the Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent civic war memorial, also on the 'Hythe Memorial' at St. Matthews Church, High Brooms, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Albert was one of the victims of the tragic sinking of H.M.S. Hythe, details of which can be found on this website by clicking on [KENT MILITARY RESEARCH](#).

SNOW, ERNEST. Rifleman, R/34867.
12th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died 25 January 1917. Aged 32.
Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Fulham, Middlesex.
Son of Henry and Alice Snow.
Husband of Minnie Edith Snow of 50, Shorrolds Road, Fulham, London.
Buried Saily-Saillisel British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: V. E. 1.
Formerly Private, TR/16/26080, 109th Training Reserve Battalion.

STAPLEY, ALLAN VERNON. Private, 77205.
17th (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 2 May 1918. Aged 18.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Chichester, Sussex. Resided Buxted, Sussex.
Son of Francis and Alice Stapley of Ivy Cottage, New Road, Buxted, Sussex.
Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: VIII. R. 34.
Formerly Private, 71133, Training Reserve.

STEGGLES, DENIS. Serjeant, 4330.
6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers).
Died 28 May 1915.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Woolwich.
Son of George and Margaret Steggles.
Buried Bedford House Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: Enclosure No.4 XI. B. 19.
A regular pre Great War soldier, Denis was posted to France with his regiment on 10 August 1914.

TESTER, JOHN. M.M. Lance Corporal, L/8513.
2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died 20 August 1916.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of Richard and Eliza Tester.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 C.

THOMAS, EDWARD SILAS. Private, 122191.
25th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Died 24 March 1918.
Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Hastings, Sussex.
Son of Edward and Mary Thomas.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 10.
Formerly Private, 013446, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

WARRENER, ALFRED JAMES. Private, G/42585.
11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.
Died 14 May 1917. Aged 31.
Born Offham, Malling, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Edward and Maryan Warrener of Manor Cottage, Offham, West Malling, Kent.
Husband of Harriett Lillian Warrener of 37, Ivy Street, Rainham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 7, and on the Offham, Kent civic war memorial.
Formerly Private, G/16686, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

WATERMAN, PERCY. Private, L/10623.

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

Died 30 July 1916.

Born Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Bromley, Kent. Resided Tonbridge, Kent. Son of Frank and Anna Waterman.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C. At the time of the 1901 census, the Waterman family resided at 140, St. Marys Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 44 year old Capel, Kent native Frank Waterman, who was employed as a Corn Carter. Percy was recorded as being 11 years old by the enumerator, which would mean that he was about 26 years old at the time of his death, when he was killed in action whilst his battalion was in a reserve position called Dublin Trench, having been withdrawn from front line positions near Falfemont Farm, near the village of Guillemont during the 1916 Battle of the Somme.

WELLS, FRANK. Private, G/9685.

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

Died 4 August 1916. Aged 39.

Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Folkestone, Kent. Resided Cheriton, Kent.

Son of the late John and Mary Ann Wells.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D. At the time of the 1891 census, the Wells family resided at Titheward, Hadlow. Head of the house was 59 year old Hadlow native John Wells, who was employed as a Farm Servant. On the evening of 3 August 1916, Frank's battalion prepared to take part in an attack, during the fighting on the Pozières Ridge near the village of Thiepval on the Somme. The battalions' objective being a trench system of strong points called "Ration Trench", zero hour was set for 2315 hours, but just over two hours prior to the battalion going on the offensive enemy artillery bombarded their trenches, fortunately some French gunners were quick of the mark and returned fire with gas shells which silenced the German artillery and doubtlessly saved the lives of some of the waiting Buffs, eventually the attack was launched at the planned time, after successfully attacking, capturing and consolidating their gains following the action the battalion were relieved and retired to Martinsart Wood where a roll call was taken which revealed that the 6th battalion had lost 4 officers and 114 men in this action. Mention should be made of the part played by 20 year old Lieutenant Alexander J. Harmer on the night of 3/4 August, quarter of an hour before the main attack by the battalion he led a bombing party out of the trenches to deal with an enemy machine gun, which was expected to play a significant role in hampering the Buffs assault on Ration Trench when it got under way, 'Alex' and his men did deal with the offending machine gun but in the process the gallant young officer was mortally wounded, he died in hospital at Rouen on 7 October 1916, for his gallantry he was awarded the Military Cross.

WILMSHURST, WILLIAM LEE. Private, G/15188.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 1 February 1917. Aged 40.

Born Hadlow, Kent. Enlisted Eastbourne, Sussex. Resided Jarvis Brook, Sussex.

Son of Stephen and Jane Wilmshurst.

Buried Porte-de-Paris Cemetery, Cambrai, Nord, France. Grave Ref: II. A. 8.

At the time of the 1891 census, the Wilmshurst family resided at High Street, Hadlow. Head of the house was 45 year old Ashburnham, Sussex native Stephen Wilmshurst, who was employed as a Coachman and Groom. William was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as an Errand Boy. At the time of the 1901 census, William resided at 49, Cromwell Road, Kensington, London, which is where he was employed as a Footman by 72 year old New York, U.S.A. native Mrs. Margaret Moke (née Norrie). Mrs Moke died on Tuesday 13 February 1906, and was the widow of George Moke and the daughter of the late Adam Norrie of New York.

Second World War

1939 -1945

BANFIELD, ALFRED THOMAS. Gunner, 1505199.

185 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 14 August 1944. Aged 25.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Haziah Alpha Banfield and Frances Banfield (née Smithers) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried La Delivrande War Cemetery, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: IV. A. 7.

Alfred's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the third quarter of 1918. The 185 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery was formed from the 49th Division in December 1942. From the time of being formed it remained in the United Kingdom, until June 1944 when it took part in the North-West Europe Campaign until being disbanded in January 1945. Alfred was a brother of Edwin Banfield, who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

BANFIELD, EDWIN JOHN. Signaller, 14508897.

Royal Corps of Signals.

Died 23 March 1943.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Haziah Alpha Banfield and Frances Banfield (née Smithers) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Husband of Edith M. E. Banfield (née Grant) of Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Hadlow Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Plot 8. Sec. C. Row C. Grave 16.

Edwin's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the last quarter of 1919. Edwin and Edith married in 1941.

BEECH, CYCIL FREDERICK. Serjeant, 1107687.

54 (The Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 23 March 1945. Aged 36.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Frank William and Cicely Beech.

Husband of Emily Stella Beech of Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Grave Ref: 54. G. 16.

At the commencement of the Second World War, the 54 (The Queen's Own Royal Glasgow Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery which was a Territorial Army formation, was in the 52nd (Lowland) Division, in which it then remained for the remainder of the Second World War. Early in the war it served in the British Expeditionary Force in France, until being evacuated back to the United Kingdom in June 1940. Cecil's unit then remained in the United Kingdom until October 1944, when it returned to mainland Europe to take part in the North-West Europe Campaign, which included taking part in the assault on Walcheren Island in South-West Holland, on 1 November 1944.

BERNARD, JOHN CAMPBELL. Captain, 67020.

4 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 8 April 1943. Aged 27.

Born London. Resided Kent.

Son of William Cecil and Amy Dare Bernard (née Shepherd) of Notting Hill, London.

Buried Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: 4. B. 10.

At the commencement of the Second World War, the 4 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery was part of Southern Command, and was based at Fort Brockhurst at Gosport, Hampshire. In October 1939, John unit was part of the British Expeditionary Force in France, until being evacuated back to the United Kingdom in June 1940. Only a month after being evacuated, the 4 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery was back in Hampshire, and was based at the village of Southbourne near Emsworth. In October 1942, whilst serving in the United Kingdom, the regiment became part of the First Army, prior to being posted to serve in North Africa the following month, and it was whilst the First Army was fighting in Tunisia that John died. In September 1943, the 4 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery became part of the Eighth Army in Italy, and then remained in Italy, becoming part of 1st Army Group Royal Artillery IN April 1945.

BUCKINGHAM, J.E. Two Second World War civilian casualties who were a father and son, and that match the inscription on the Hadlow civic war memorial are recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Both of the casualties died together in Fulham, London on 1 July 1944, and at this point in time, no tangible link to Hadlow for either of them has yet been established.

CAMFIELD, KENNETH ARTHUR GEORGE. Second Radio Officer.

Merchant Navy, M.V. Peter Maersk (Hull).

Died 7 December 1942. Aged 18.

Son of Arthur and Ella Camfield of Golden Green, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 81.

Kenneth's ship was originally a 5,476 ton Danish Motor Vessel, that had been built in 1932, by Odense Staalskibsværft ved A.P. Møller, Odense, Denmark. At the time of her loss she was owned by Alfred Holt & Co, of Liverpool, having been requisitioned by the Ministry of War Transport (MOWT), and based at the port of Hull. The Peter Maersk was sailing from Liverpool to Saldanha Bay, Aden via Cape Town, South Africa, laden with a cargo of 4,601 tons of government stores, and 643 tons commercial stores. She was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic to the west of the Azores on 7 December 1942, by the German uboat U-185 with the loss of all 67 members of her crew. Kenneth's ship was the first of nine ships sunk by Kapitänleutnant August Maus in the U-185, between the above date and 6 August 1943. Unlike thousands of Second World War German submariners, Wuppertal, Germany, native August Maus who commanded the U-185 survived the war, having been injured and captured he spent almost three years in American captivity. After being held at the POW camp in Crossville, Tennessee, he was transferred to the camp at Papago Park on 27 January 1944. On 12 February 1944, he was one of five U-boat commanders to escape from this camp, but he and his traveling companion Friedrich Guggenberger were recaptured in Tucson. August Maus participated in the digging of the tunnel through which 25 POWs escaped on the night of 23-24 December 1944 but his injury resulted in him having to remain behind. After a transfer to Camp Shanks in February 1946, August Maus was then held in the British zone of Germany before finally being released. Later he became a successful businessman in Hamburg, Germany, and died on 28 September 1996 aged 81.

COLES, IVOR VIVIAN. Steward, 185823.

Naval Auxiliary Personnel (Merchant Navy), H.M.S. Rawalpindi.

Died 23 November 1939. Aged 29.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Coles of Hadlow, Kent.

Commemorated on the Liverpool Naval Memorial. Panel 19, Column 2.

Ivor's ship had been built by Harland & Wolff Ltd. at Greenock, Scotland, and launched on 26 March 1926. On 26 August 1939, the passenger ship Rawalpindi which was owned by the P. & O. Steam Navigation Co Ltd, London, was requisitioned by the Admiralty and converted with commendable speed, to an armed merchant cruiser, the conversion being completed on 19 September 1939 at which time she was commissioned by the Royal Navy as H.M.S. Rawalpindi. On 23 November 1939 Ivor's ship, which was commanded by 60 year old Captain Edward Coverley Kennedy, R.N. of Edinburgh, was on Northern Patrol when she was shelled and sunk by the German battlecruiser Scharnhorst to the southeast of Iceland, in the Iceland-Faroe passage. Of the ships complement of 313 officers and ratings, 275 died and there was only 37 survivors. The Scharnhorst had attempted to break out into the Atlantic together with the sister

ship the Gneisenau. Both of the ships returned to Germany to avoid the searching warships of the British Home Fleet. Numbered amongst the dead was Captain Kennedy who was a recipient of the French Legion D'Honneur, he had retired from the Royal Navy, but had returned and was given command of H.M.S. Rawalpindi. Captain Kennedy was posthumously Mentioned in Despatches, for his heroic decision to fight the battlecruiser Scharnhorst against overwhelming odds. He was the father of Sir Ludovic Henry Coverley Kennedy, the distinguished journalist, broadcaster, author and former Second World War Royal Navy Officer who died on 18 October 2009, aged 89.

COLLINS, STEPHEN WILLIAM JOHN. Sergeant, 6345628.

6th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Died 17 November 1942. Aged 23.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Richard and Mary Sophia Collins.

Husband of Kathleen E. Collins of Barry, Glamorgan, Wales.

Commemorated on the Medjez-el-Bab Memorial, Tunisia. Face 26.

Pre war member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

EARLL, KENNETH BERTIE. Sergeant (Flight Engineer), 1806629.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Died Tuesday 20 March 1945. Aged 21.

Born Kent.

Son of Bertie and Gladys Mabel Earll (née Back) of Golden Green, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Holy Trinity Churchyard, East Peckham, Kent.

Commemorated on the East Peckham, Kent civic war memorial.

FOX, EDWARD LIONEL WAKEFIELD. M.C. Major, AI/852.

5th Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles.

Died 11 January 1942. Aged 43.

Born Devon.

Son of Edward and Kathleen Fox.

Husband of Marion Stella Fox of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. Grave Ref: 22. D. 20.

Edward had served as an officer in the Indian Army for several years. The 5th Battalion, 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles was captured during the fall of Singapore.

GARDINER, FREDERICK GEORGE. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 54461.

'C' Flight, 90 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 13 April 1944. Aged 21.

Born Kent.

Son of George and Annie Gardiner (née Flint) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Roye New British Cemetery, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: Plot 2. Row AC. Collective grave 2-6.

Frederick's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the third quarter of 1922. Frederick was the pilot of Stirling bomber LJ483 XY-V which took off from R.A.F. Tuddenham, Suffolk, on a Special Operations Executive operation to drop supplies to the French Resistance, as part of the planned allied invasion of Europe. The aircraft crashed near the commune of Roye in the Department of the Somme, killing all of the 7 crew. Another Stirling from Frederick's squadron was also lost on the same operation, two of its crew survived and were captured.

GILLET, P. As commemorated on the Hadlow civic war memorial, appears to be the following casualty who has been commemorated with a wrong surname:-

GILLETT, ALEC. Able Seaman, C/SSX 21172.

Royal Navy, H.M. Submarine Spearfish. (N69).

Died 1 August 1940. Aged 19.

Born Kent.

Son of Percy Edward and Lily Gillett (née Cook) of Pitt's Wood, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 35, Column 2.

Alec's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the second quarter of 1916. Whilst surfaced at 1904 hours on 1 August 1940, H.M. Submarine Spearfish which was commanded by 33-year old Lieutenant-Commander John Hays Forbes, D.S.O., R.N. was hit in the forepart by one torpedo, which was fired from the German uboat U-34, and sank immediately about 180 miles west-southwest of Stavanger, Norway. The U-34 was returning from its last patrol as a combat boat and only had one torpedo remaining, when the crew first spotted a periscope at 1817 hours and dived. At 1848 hours, the conning tower of H.M. Submarine Spearfish became visible, and the commander of the U-34 Kapitänleutnant Wilhelm Rollmann fired the last torpedo over the bow. One minute after the hit, the Germans surfaced and approached the sinking position where they picked up the sole survivor, Able Seaman William V. Pester who was on his first patrol, and took him back to Wilhelmshaven as a prisoner of war. The commander of Alec's submarine, four officers and 36 ratings were lost.

HARDS, SYDNEY. Gunner, 1772244.

270 Battery, 77 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 29 May 1942. Aged 29.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Lewis and Louisa Hards (née Purton) of Hadlow, Kent.

Husband of Dorothy Sybil Hards of Hadlow, Kent.

Buried Calcutta (Bhowanipore) Cemetery, Kolkata, India.

Grave Ref: Plot H. Grave 27.

Sydney's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the last quarter of 1912. At the time of Sydney's death, the 77 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery which was a Territorial Army unit, was comprised of 269, 270, and 286 Batteries. It was formed in 1941 and originally had been engaged on Home Defence duties within the United Kingdom. During the same month that Sydney died, his unit was posted to the Barrackpore area of India.

HOBDEN, F. Two Second World War casualties are commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, both of which have a number of connections with the county of Sussex. At this point in time it has not been possible to establish a tangible link to Hadlow for either of the casualties.

HOWICK, PERCY PHILIP SAMUEL. Aircraftman 1st Class, 1253921.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 33 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 29 November 1941. Aged 21.
Born Kent.
Son of Percy Enos Howick and Alice May Howick (née Longhurst) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: 15. E. 9.
Percy's birth was registered in the Malling, Kent registration district, during the second quarter of 1920.

LANGRIDGE, ERNEST. Private, 5500583.
2/4th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.
Died 11 April 1943. Aged 22.
Born and resided Hampshire.
Son of Charlie and Nellie Langridge.
Husband of Phyllis J. Langridge (née Coles) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: III. F. 26.
Ernest was a pre war member of the Hampshire Regiment. The birth of an Ernest Langridge was registered in the Alton, Hampshire registration district during the last quarter of 1920, whose mothers maiden name was Kimber, and which appears to be that of the above Hadlow commemorated casualty.

LARKING, R.A. As commemorated on the Hadlow civic war memorial, arguably the best match is the following Royal Marine casualty:-

LARKINS, RICHARD ALFRED. Corporal, CH/X 2150.
Royal Marines, H.M.S. Cleopatra. (33).
Died 16 July 1943.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 73, Column 2.
Built by Hawthorn Leslie & Co. of Hebburn-on-Tyne, H.M.S. Cleopatra was a 5450 ton, Dido class light cruiser; she was commissioned on 5 December 1941. H.M.S. Cleopatra was torpedoed off Sicily on 16 July 1943 by the Regina Marina Italian Submarine Dandolo. Despite substantial damage H.M.S. Cleopatra, commanded by Captain G. Grantham, D.S.O., R.N. managed to reach Malta for repairs, and whilst at the island took the opportunity to lay to rest some of the men who were killed when the Italian submarine had attacked, one of whom was Victor. After being patched up in Malta the cruiser left in October 1943 for Philadelphia, U.S.A. where she remained undergoing extensive repairs until November 1944. The light cruiser survived the Second World War, and remained in service with the Royal Navy until 1953 and was eventually scrapped in 1958. Richard's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district during the third quarter of 1919.

LOVETT, THOMAS HENRY. Leading Aircraftman, 238427.
Died 18 August 1940. Aged 40.
Born Upton Park, Essex.
Son of William and Lucy Hannah Lovett.
Husband of Daisy Lovett (née Long) of Maidstone, Kent.
Buried (Kent County Mental Hospital) Cemetery, Barming, Maidstone, Kent.
Grave Ref: Grave P.1.
Commemorated on the Barming, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial.

McPHERSON, LOUIS DONALD. Private, NX35873.
A.I.F. 2/19 Battalion, Australian Infantry.
Died 15 February 1943. Aged 31.
Born Kent 23 September 1910. Enlisted Wagga, New South Wales, Australia.
Son of Edward Donald and Edith McPherson of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. Grave Ref: Collective grave 24. A. 1-14.
Commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 43.
The 2/19th Infantry Battalion, Australian Infantry opened its headquarters at Walgrove Camp, west of Sydney, on 15 July 1940. The battalion's recruits were drawn principally from the Monaro and Riverina regions of Southern New South Wales, although it also included small drafts of men from Sydney and New Guinea. It trained at Walgrove, Ingleburn, and Bathurst before embarking for Singapore, as part of the 22nd Brigade of the 8th Australian Division, on 2 February 1941. On 7 January D Company was detached to form half a special force deployed to delay the Japanese approach to Endau, Malaya. One of its platoons was involved in a clash with the Japanese on 14 January. D Company returned to the battalion in time for its redeployment to the west coast on 17 January. The 2/19th was rushed forward to reinforce the beleaguered 2/29th Infantry Battalion at Bakri. It held the vital crossroad there throughout 19 January, long enough to allow for the withdrawal of the remnants of the 2/29th and the 45th Indian Brigade from the direction of Muar. The Japanese had already outflanked the 2/19th's position, however, and on the morning of 20 January a torturous withdrawal towards Parit Sulong commenced. The force managed to fight its way through a succession of Japanese roadblocks, while constantly harried from its rear and from the air, but was halted by strong positions around the bridge across the Simpang Kiri River at Parit Sulong. With its ammunition exhausted, casualties mounting, and no chance of relief, the force struck out through the jungle for Yong Peng on the morning of 23 January. It was forced to leave its wounded behind; they were subsequently massacred by the Japanese. For his courage and leadership throughout the action, the 2/19th's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Anderson, was awarded the Victoria Cross. Only 271 members of the battalion were mustered at Yong Peng and withdrawn to Johore Bahru. On 26 January the battalion received 650 reinforcements, and reorganization and training commenced. It crossed onto Singapore Island on 31 January and took up defensive positions on the left of the 22nd Brigade's sector on the island's west coast. The wide frontage it was required to cover, however, meant its platoons and sections had to be widely dispersed. When the Japanese

launched their invasion on the night of 8 February, Louis's position was readily infiltrated and the battle degenerated into vicious scattered engagements in the dark. Like most Australian units involved, it fell into a desperate retreat that ended with surrender on the outskirts of Singapore city on the night of 15 February when Louis lost his life. Louis's battalion with 620 deaths and 197 wounded, had the sad distinction of having suffered the highest number of casualties of any Australian Army unit during the Second World War.

MONYPENNY, JOHN BLACKWELL SINCLAIR. Squadron Leader, 29098.

9 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 20 July 1940. Aged 28.

Born Hadlow, Kent.

Son of the Reverend Sinclair Howard Monypenny, and of the late Mary Beatrice Blackwell Monypenny (née Monypenny).

Husband of Eveline Maud Monypenny (née Curtis) of Barkway, Hertfordshire.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 4.

John was the pilot of Wellington bomber L7795 WS-G, which took off from R.A.F. Honington, Suffolk at 2010 hours on 19 July 1940, being detailed to take part in an attack on Wismar, Germany. The Wellington was shot down at 0200 hours on 20 July 1940 by Bf110 night-fighter pilot, Oberleutnant Werner Streib of 2/NJG 1, and crashed into the Baltic Sea at Eckernförder Bay, about 15 miles from Kiel, Germany. John's bomber was the first of the 67 aircraft that Werner Streib shot down at night, and has the inevitable distinction of being the first 'official' victory that the German night fighter wing scored during the Second World War. John and four members of his crew are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, but the body of 32 year old Pilot Officer (Air Gunner) Harold F.A. Lees from Dartford, Kent was recovered and he is at rest in Kiel War Cemetery, Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. John's father; the Reverend Sinclair Howard Monypenny (1870-1951) was the Vicar of Hadlow, Kent between 1908 and 1951. John's parents were first cousins, his late mother died in 1932 aged 60. For additional Monypenny family details, please see the brief commemoration in remembrance of John's late uncle John Howard Monypenny, who fell on 9 October 1916, and is also commemorated on the Hadlow civic war memorial.

PEIRCE, REGINALD VICTOR. Private, 14435037.

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

Died 13 May 1944. Aged 19.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Peirce (née Neil) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Cassino Memorial, Italy. Panel 4.

Reginald's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the first quarter of 1925.



RADCLIFFE-SMITH, HUGH ALFRED HARGREAVES. Major, 41205.

Royal Engineers.

Died 8 January 1943. Aged 33.

Born India. Resided South West London.

Son of Colonel Noel Mervyn Radcliffe-Smith and Stella Constance Radcliffe-Smith (née Rixon) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Husband of Janet Louise Radcliffe-Smith (née Carstairs) of Frankston, Victoria, Australia.

Buried Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan. Grave Ref: 10. D. 2.

Hugh was a pre war member of the Royal Engineers, and he was killed in action at Amritsar, India.

READER, ARTHUR HERBERT. Private, 6350185.

4th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Died 2 October 1942. Aged 28.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Arthur and Sarah Reader (née Taylor).

Husband of Dorothy I. Reader of Oldbury, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Caserta War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: II. D. 20.

Arthur's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the third quarter of 1914.

SIMMONS, WILLIAM HENRY. Serjeant, 1038966.

H.Q. 1 Reserve Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Died 1 August 1940. Aged 39.

Born and resided Hadlow, Kent.

Son of William and Hannah Simmons of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Husband of Violet C. Simmons (née Hards) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Hadlow Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Plot 2. Section B. Row C. Grave 39.

William was a pre war member of the Royal Artillery. William's birth was registered in the Tonbridge, Kent registration district, during the first quarter of 1901. At the time of the 1901 census, the Simmons family resided at Stallions Green, Hadlow. Head of the house was 30 year old Hadlow native William Simmons (junior), who was employed as a Stone Quarryman. William junior was recorded by the census enumerator as being 3 months old.

VANNS, HORACE EDMUND. Able Seaman, P/JX 184967.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Gladiolus. (K34).

Died 16/17 October 1941. Aged 23.

Born Kent.

Son of Horace Henry and Alice Vanns (née Worsley) of Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 49, Column 3.

Horace's Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details show the date of his death as having occurred on 21 October 1941. We have taken the liberty of inserting the dates of 16/17 October 1941 above, because apart from his CWGC commemoration all of the other data accessed shows his date of death as being on one of the latter dates when H.M.S. Gladiolus was lost. Horace's ship was a 925 ton Flower class Royal Navy corvette, which was built by the Smiths Dock Co., Ltd. of South Bank-on-Tees. H.M.S. Gladiolus was laid down on 19 October 1939, launched on 24 January 1940, and commission on 6 April 1940. Commanded by 40 year old Lieutenant-Commander Harry Marcus Crews Sanders, D.S.O., D.S.C., R.D., R.N.R. of Bitterne, Southampton, Hampshire, Horace's ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine to the south of Iceland, while escorting convoy SC-48. She was ordered to pick up survivors from several torpedoed ships and in doing so fell behind the convoy. H.M.S. Gladiolus is shown in some publications as having last been seen at approximately 0100 hours on the morning of 17 October, and was reported missing thereafter. In addition to conflict appertaining to the exact date of the loss of H.M.S. Gladiolus, is added uncertainty which still prevails as to which German uboat sunk her. Most of the sources checked attribute the sinking to the U-558 which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Günther Krech, and some other sources show that the ship was sunk by the U-432, which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Heinz-Otto Schultze. Another highly likely scenario which is also referred to is that both of the German uboats had torpedoed H.M.S. Gladiolus, with the U-558 hitting and crippling the corvette on the night of 16 October, and in the early hours of the following morning she was torpedoed and ultimately sunk by the U-432. Another source speculates that the corvette was unstable due to having been refitted, and that she overturned during a violent manoeuvre, but the actual cause of her loss is unknown, one of the reasons being that there were no survivors from Horace's ship. Prior to being sunk, during her 18 months of service H.M.S. Gladiolus had escorted over 40 convoys, of which over a dozen were attacked; she was involved in 4 major convoy battles, and participated in destroying 3 enemy uboats. The extent of her involvement in the war in the Atlantic is reflected in the awards to her commander, his Distinguished Service Order was "For enterprise, skill and devotion to duty in action against enemy submarines" On 27 June 1941 the uboat U-556 which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Herbert Wohlfarth, was sunk by depth charges from H.M.S. Gladiolus, H.M.S. Nasturtium, and H.M.S. Celandine. On 1 July 1940 the uboat U-26 was scuttled after being damaged by 8 depth charges from H.M.S. Gladiolus, and bombs from an R.A.A.F. Sunderland. The U-boat crew survived and made prisoner. The sinking of the U-26 resulted in the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant-Commander Sanders.



WHEELWRIGHT, IRVINE SYME. Pilot Officer (Pilot), 91003.

500 (County of Kent) (Auxiliary Air Force) Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 29 May 1940.

Born Hertfordshire.

Son of John S. Wheelwright D.S.C. and Beatrice E. Wheelwright (née Syme).

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 10.

Irvine's birth was registered in the Watford, Hertfordshire registration district during the first quarter of 1915. Irvine was a former pupil of Yardley Court School, Tonbridge, Kent. On 7 November 1938 Irvine's squadron was allocated the new role of General Reconnaissance and was transferred to R.A.F. Coastal Command. Equipped with Avro Ansons the squadron carried out coastal patrols over the English Channel and the North Sea. On 5 September 1939 an Avro Anson of No. 500 (County of Kent) Squadron made the first attack of the Second World War on a German submarine. Irvine was the pilot of Avro Anson No. N5227 MK-L when it took off from its base at R.A.F. Detling, Kent at 1512 hours on 29 May 1940 to take part in an operation called "Shamrock Patrol." Irvine's aircraft was last seen on the surface of the sea in position VXWY 1357, near the destroyer T61 at 1800 hours. Irvine and the two crew members; 22 year old Flight Sergeant Russell G.T. Sloper, and 26 year old Sergeant Herbert W. Johnson, are all commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. The body of Leading Aircraftman (Wireless Operator) Frank Howard Giles from Canterbury, Kent, was washed ashore on 30 July 1940, and he is at rest at the Nes General Cemetery on the Frisian Island of Ameland. Frank is commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent, civic war memorial. Irvine's father served as a Flight Commander in the Royal Naval Air Service during the Great War as pictured below, and is arguably best remembered for his exploits with the Airship NS3.



Second World War

1939 -1945

Lost Casualties

BEECH, WILLIAM HENRY. Private, 6355314.

261 Company, Pioneer Corps.

Died 6 March 1945. Aged 29.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of George Alfred and Ruth Beech (née Cook) of Hadlow, Kent.

Buried Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerpen, Belgium. Grave Ref: V. B. 101.

Formerly Private, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

Commemorated on the Yalding, Kent civic war memorial.

William's birth was registered in the Malling, Kent registration district, during the second quarter of 1916. At the time of the 1901 census, George's parents resided at Maidstone Road, Brenchley, Kent, both were natives of Brenchley.

DICKSON, FREDERICK OSCAR. Flight Lieutenant, 33164.

51 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 5 April 1940. Aged 25.

Son of Lieutenant-Colonel Egbert (Bertie) Dickson and Ida Mary Dickson (née Benson) of Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent.

Grandson of Sir John Frederick Dickson, K.C.M.G., O.B.E.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 4.

Flown by 22 year old Flying Officer Dermot E. Gould, of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, Whitley bomber K9040 MH-? of 51 Squadron, Royal Air Force, took off from R.A.F. Dishforth, Yorkshire on a night training exercise, with Frederick being amongst the five crew of the Whitley. Although the cause of the loss of the aircraft was never ascertained, it was presumed to have been lost in the Bristol Channel, approximately 10 miles off Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, Wales at about 2345 hours, with loss of all the crew who are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Frederick had travelled with his mother from Bombay to London, via Aden, Suez, Port Said, Marseilles, Gibraltar, and Plymouth, onboard the Peninsula and Orient Steam Navigation Company Ltd vessel Khiva, which docked at the Port of London on 9 September 1915. At the time of travelling from India, Frederick and his mother were recorded as heading for Culverden Mansions, Culverden Road, Balham, London, SW12. Mrs. Dickson had returned to England prior to the birth of her son Denis on 1 January 1916, at a maternity home at Taplow, Berkshire which was in use for the wives of Indian Army officers. Denis later served in the Royal Corps of Signals, and attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Frederick was promoted from the rank of Flying Officer to a Flight Lieutenant on 27 January 1939. In 1930, Frederick's father; Lieutenant-Colonel Egbert Dickson and his brother-in-law Oscar Benson, founded the now internationally renowned chocolates company, Bendicks of Mayfair

FEAVER, LILY PRETORIA. Civilian casualty.
Died 1 November 1940. Aged 40.
Wife of Frederick George Feaver of Park Gate Cottages, Hadlow, Kent.
Lily died with her daughter at their home.

FEAVER, MARGERY LILIAN. Civilian casualty.
Died 1 November 1940. Aged 14.
Daughter of Frederick George Feaver and Lily Pretoria Feaver of Park Gate Cottages, Hadlow, Kent.
Margery died with her mother at their home.



GOUDIE, JOSEPH JORDAN. Gunner, 971239.
59 (Newfoundland) Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 2 May 1943.
Born and resided Newfoundland.
Son of the late Allen and Hannah Goudie (née McLean).
Buried Hadlow Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Plot 9. Section C. Row A. Grave 32.
Commemorated on page 164 of the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance.
The photograph above and that of Raymond House below, were taken by the transcriber of these brief commemoration about 12 years ago, prior to obtaining a digital camera and as such must apologize for the poor quality of same. Mention should also be made of the wreath on Joseph's grave which was from the Royal Canadian Legion. Having visited the graves of all of the 59 (Newfoundland) Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery casualties in Kent many times since a child, I have noted at various times that the wreath laying appear to be a regular event.



HOUSE, RAYMOND. Lance Bombardier, 971474.
59 (Newfoundland) Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died 28 December 1943.
Born and resided St. Johns, Newfoundland.
Buried Hadlow Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Plot 9. Section C. Row B. Grave 32.
Commemorated on page 169 of the Newfoundland Book of Remembrance.
Raymond died in hospital whilst receiving treatment for a Brain Tumor. The headstone shown in the background above Raymond's, is that of Joseph Goudie.

LINEHAN, CORNELIUS CHARLES. Flight Sergeant (Pilot), 1383508.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 77 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 22 November 1943. Aged 23.
Born Stepney, London.
Son of Charles and Caroline Ellen Linehan of Poplar, London.
Buried Hadlow Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Plot 2. Section B. Row D. Grave 39.
Cornelius was the pilot of Halifax bomber LW264 KN-K, when it took off from R.A.F. Elvington, Yorkshire, at 1706 hours on the evening of Monday 22 November 1943. Cornelius's aircraft was in a bomber force of 764 aircraft comprised of 469 Lancasters, 234 Halifaxes, 50 Stirlings, and 11 Mosquitos taking part in a raid on Berlin. The 764 bombers were the greatest force sent to Berlin so far, but it was also the last raid in which Stirlings were sent to Germany. Bad weather again had resulted in most of the German fighters being grounded, and the R.A.F. bomber force was able to take a relatively 'straight in, straight out' route to the target without suffering undue loss. 26 aircraft - 11 Lancasters, 10 Halifaxes, 5 Stirlings - were lost on the raid. Berlin was again completely cloud-covered and returning crews could only estimate that the marking and bombing

were believed to be accurate, in fact it later transpired that this was the most effective raid on Berlin during the Second World War. A vast area of destruction stretched from the central districts westwards across the mainly residential areas of Tiergarten and Charlottenburg to the separate suburb city of Spandau. Because of the dry weather conditions, several 'firestorm' areas were reported and a German plane next day measured the height of the smoke cloud as 6,000 metres (nearly 19,000 ft). It was also estimated that about 175,000 people were bombed out of their homes due to the raid. Having successfully carried out their allotted task over the target area, tragically Cornelius's aircraft and another Halifax belonging to 102 Squadron, R.A.F. collided at 2345 hours in the Pocklington circuit, and crashed near Newlands Farm on the York Road, Barmby Moor, Yorkshire. The aircrafts Flight Engineer, 21 year old Sergeant (Flight Engineer) Arthur D. West was laid to rest in Stonefall Cemetery, Harrogate, Yorkshire, and the bodies of the six other members of the crew were returned back to their respective home towns and villages. Fourteen oak trees, each named after an airman killed in the above tragedy, were later formerly commemorated at Newlands Farm where both of the aircraft had crashed.

MAY, WILLIAM CHARLES. Civilian casualty.

Died 30 November 1940. Aged 55.

Born Hadlow, Kent.

Son of the late Henry and Mary Ann May of Golden Green, Tonbridge, Kent.

Husband of Emily May (née Hayes) of 94 High Street, Southampton, Hampshire.

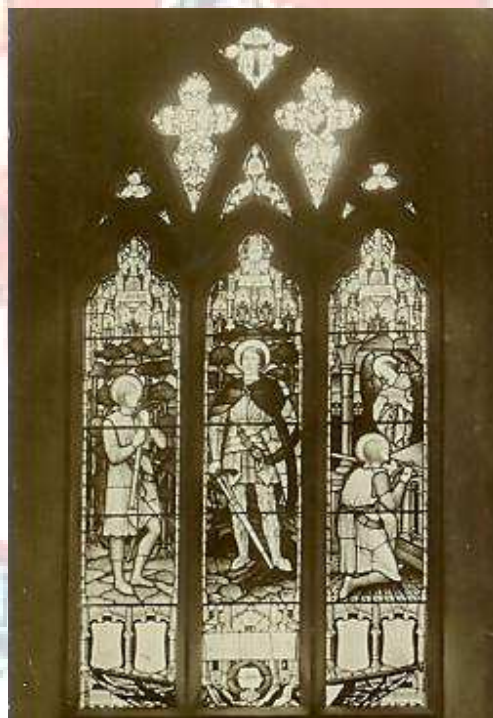
At the time of the 1901 census, the May family resided at Albert's Cottages, Golden Green, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 47 year old Hadlow native Henry May, who was an Own Account Wheelwright. William was recorded by the census enumerator as being 16 years old, and employed as a Blacksmith. William died at the High Street, Southampton, Hampshire. William's 60 year old wife Emily, who was the daughter of the late George Hayes, of Shipbourne Green, Tonbridge, Kent, died with him, as did his 13 year old daughter; Sheila Violet Hayes May. Southampton suffered badly from large-scale air raids during the Second World War. As a large port city on the south coast, it was an important strategic target for the German Luftwaffe. There were fifty seven attacks in all, but nerves were frayed by over 1,500 alarms. According to A.R.P. (Air Raid Precaution Department) reports over 2,300 bombs were dropped amounting to approximately 500 tons of high explosives. Over 30,000 incendiary devices were dropped on the city. Nearly 45,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed, with most of the city's High Street were William and his family resided being hit. During the night of 30 November 1940, the centre of Southampton became the target for German bombers, at which time 800 high explosive bombs and 9,000 incendiaries were dropped on the town centre. In this attack, and as the result of another that was carried out a week earlier on 23 November, 214 people were killed, and many people were injured some of whom died later of their injuries. In addition to the fatalities and injuries, approximately 500 properties were totally destroyed.

A. ALDRIDGE	E. MAYHEW
W. BAKER	J. H. MONYPENNY
A. BARDEN	F. T. MOORE
W. C. BARTON	C. W. PARKS
H. B. BENNET	F. PAYNE
C. BURR	A. POPE
R. BUSS	E. PRESNELL
A. E. CLARKE	W. SANDS
H. J. COPPIN	F. SAUNDERS
W. CARR. DOLAN	W. B. SAUNDERS
D. FERMOR	F. SELTINGS
W. GARDENER	H. SELTINGS
H. GARDENER	G. T. SHARPE
F. GODLEY	A. L. SINGER
J. GOODSSELL	C. SMITH
G. GREEN	H. STAPLEY
J. HATCHER	H. TAYLOR
C. HUMPHREY	W. C. V. TAYLOR
D. KENNEDY	C. TOWN
P. LAKER	A. TUFNELL
H. MANKELOW	H. G. WARREN
S. MASON	S. J. R. WARREN
J. MATTHEWS	S. F. WICKENS
W. MAY	F. FIELD

HADLOW GREAT WAR COMMEMORATED CASUALTIES



UNVEILING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE HADLOW,
TONBRIDGE, KENT, CIVIC WAR MEMORIAL ON 7 JANUARY 1920.



OLD POSTCARD OF THE HADLOW GREAT WAR MEMORIAL WINDOW