

# HOUGHAM

## The Great War

1914 - 1919

**ATKINS, SIDNEY EDWARD.** Gunner, 177906.  
66th Divisional Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Field Artillery.  
Died 26 September 1917. Aged 19.  
Born West Hougham, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Woolwich, Kent.  
Son of William George and Sarah Ann Atkins of The Post Office, West Hougham, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Coxyde Military Cemetery, De Panne, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: IV. B. 15.

**COOK, WILLIAM.** No clear trace, but is possibly the casualty who is commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Great War memorial plaque located in St. Martins School, Dover, Kent.

**DENNETT, THOMAS SUTTON.** Corporal, G/81120.  
17th (Service) Battalion, (Empire) Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).  
Died 29 November 1917. Aged 19 years.  
Born Kennington, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted and resided Folkestone, Kent.  
Son of Thomas Sutton Dennett and Charlotte Dennett of Shakespeare House, West Hougham, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Hermies Hill British Cemetery, France. Grave reference I.A.1.  
Also commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.  
Formerly Trooper, 3252, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles (Yeomanry).

**EVANSON, ROGER MACDONNELL.** Private, G/16521.  
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).  
Died 31 July 1917. Aged 25.  
Born Hougham, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Epsom, Surrey.  
Son of Arthur Macdonnell Evanson and Katherine Mary Evanson of Chilverton Elms, Dover, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate (Ypres), Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 45.  
Formerly Private, 323, 19th (Service) Battalion, (2nd Public Schools) Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

**FINNIS, PERCY WALTER.** Trooper, 1018.

2nd, Australian Light Horse.

Died 4 August 1916. Aged 24.

Born Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted 18 January 1915.

Brother of Mrs E. Gosden, 35 Frampton Road, Hythe, Kent.

Buried Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: B. 65.

Also commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 3.

At the time of his enlistment into the 1st Light Horse Brigade, 2nd, Australian Light Horse, Percy's address is shown as The Vicarage, Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent, which was in fact his mothers address. William's correct address would almost certainly have been in Woottona, Young, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, where he was employed in farming, having previously been employed as a Groom, prior to going to Australia at the age of eighteen. William left the port of Brisbane on 2 June 1915, aboard the 10,392 ton troopship H.M.A.T. Medic, which was an Admiralty requisitioned ship, owned by The Oceanic Steamship Navigation Company (Liverpool), to who she was returned on 26 October 1917. Percy fell during the Battle of Romani, Egypt, that had heralded the second notable attempt by troops of the Ottoman Empire to seize control of the critical Suez Canal, which in August 1916 was held by the British and Empire forces. Commanded by the German General Kress von Kressenstein the Turkish soldiers mounted their offensive on the night of 3/4 August 1916 with an attack on the British lines to the south of Romani. Despite initially securing part possession of Romani in the face of minimal British opposition, further progress proved hard to obtain, and repeated British and Empire troops counterattacks, not only succeeded in reversing the earlier Turkish gains, but in pushed the Turkish forces into retreat. Having sustained 4,000 casualties, and about an equal number captured, General Kress von Kressenstein led his force back approximately seventy miles to El Arish, where the Turkish authorities pronounced the attack a victory. In reality however the failure of the battle where Percy died, he being amongst an estimated 1,100 British and Empire casualties. Their sacrifice had removed any further direct threat to the Suez Canal by the Ottoman forces.

**FRIEND, WILLIAM ROBERT.** Private, G/235.

"C" Company, 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment),

Died 2 August 1918. Aged 21.

Born enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of James and Sarah Ann Friend of 4, Maxton Hill Cottages, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 17, also on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

**GOLDS, WILLIAM ALFRED.** Sapper, 18256.

9th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 14 December 1914. Aged 26.

Born Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Enlisted Shorncliffe, Kent.

Son of William and Caroline Rosa Golds.

Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: A.27.

**HODGKIN, FRANK.** Private, L/10555.

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

Died Saturday 22 July 1916. Aged 20.

Born The Green, Aldington, Ashford, Kent 15 November 1895.

Enlisted Canterbury, Kent 11 November 1914. Resided Dover, Kent. (please see below).

Forth son of Thomas William and Eliza Woodland Hodgkin (né Manning) of Sanders Hill Church Hougham, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.

Prior to enlisting in the army, Frank had been employed by a Mr Dean as a Baker at Highfield Bakery, Ashford, Kent. Whilst in the employ of Mr Dean, Frank lodged at Hythe Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent, which was probably with the Dean family at the Bakery, and doubtless making the inevitable early starts a bit more palatable. At the time of his enlistment, Frank had requested serving with the Royal Field Artillery, but was attested to the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Initially Thomas and Eliza Hodgkin were informed that Frank had been wounded and posted as missing, but in June 1917 Frank's parents were given official notification informing the couple that Frank by that time was 'Accepted as Dead,' his death probably having occurred on Saturday 22 July 1916. Shown in/on SDGW as residing at Dover, Kent, it would seem that as can be seen above Frank actually resided at either Ashford or Willesborough, Kent, probably the latter.

**JONES, WALTER GEORGE.** Lance Corporal, G/9025.

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

Died 9 August 1918. Aged 22 years.

Born Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Henry James and Emily Frances Jones of Stone Cottages, Elms Vale, Dover, Kent.

Buried Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave Ref: II.C.4.

Places of birth, enlistment and residence are as accessed from SDGW. Walter's CWGC commemoration is at odds with same as it shows him to have been a native of Hougham, Dover, Kent.

**KINGSMILL, LEWIS.** Private, T/2775.

2nd/4th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 22 August 1915. Aged 20.

Born Hougham, Dover, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Resided West Hougham, Dover, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Kingsmill of Rose Cottage, West Hougham, Dover, Kent.

Buried Hill 10 Cemetery, Turkey. Grave Ref: I. C. 6.

**MORRIS, ARTHUR CAPEL.** Private, 6124.  
1st Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers.  
Died 27 November 1915. Aged 23.  
Born Capel-le-Ferne, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Norwood, Surrey.  
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Capel Morris of 78, The Drive, Hove, Sussex.  
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 185 to 190.  
Formerly 4408, Lancers of the Line.

**SMITH, ROBERT WILLIAM.** No clear trace.

**TANTON, EBENEZER FREDERICK.** Corporal, TF/200593.  
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 25 November 1917.  
Born West Hougham, Dover, Kent. Enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.  
Son of Ernest Henry Walter and Mary Bradley Tanton of Apsley House, West Hougham, Dover, Kent.  
Buried Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: III. A. 1.  
Commemorated on Hougham, Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

**TURTON, JOHN.** Private, SR/8171.  
4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).  
Died 3 February 1915.  
Born Cheriton, Kent. Enlisted Stratford, Essex. Resided Folkestone, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 6 or 8.

**WEBB, STUART CORBAN.** Private, 26568.  
7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died Tuesday 6 August 1918. Aged 19.  
Born Park Cottage, Aldington, Ashford, Kent 23 December 1898. Enlisted Dover, Kent  
Resided the Royal Oak Public House, Capel-le-Ferne, Dover, Kent.  
Son of Henry William and Louisa Webb (née Dye).  
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 16.  
Although with the spelling STUART on his birth certificate and other documentation, it should be noted by anybody carrying out more in depth research on this casualty, that on other data accessed his Christian name is sometimes spelt STEWART. Stuart's paternal ancestry was very involved in Game Keeping, and prior to enlisting had been an assistant Game Keeper, possibly on the Acrise Place estate, where his father was at one time the Head Game Keeper in the employ of Francis A. MacKinnon, D.L., J.P.(1848-1947), who died only a few weeks before his one hundredth birthday, and was Chief of the Clan MacKinnon. Possibly of more 'Kent' interest is that in addition to being a Deputy Lieutenant of the county he had played cricket 78 times for Kent, in addition to playing for England in Australia 1878/79. Stuart had also been a gifted cricketer after tutelage from Francis MacKinnon. Born circa 1856 at North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, Stuart's father Henry Webb was a Game Keeper at Thursford Hall, Thursford, Fakenham, Norfolk. Also employed at Thursford Hall, at the same time as Henry was one of the

Housemaids, Walsingham, Norfolk native Louisa Dye, who he married at Walsingham, Norfolk in September 1881. The first of the couples six children, who was also named Henry William Webb, was born the following year at Burlington, Norfolk, and the other five were all born at Aldington, Ashford, Kent, Stuart being the youngest. From Aldington the Webb family (less Henry Jnr), moved to Home Farm, Eastwell, Ashford, Kent, where Stuart's father was employed as a Game Keeper, by Henry Holden on the Eastwell Manor Estate, where the family remained, until the move to work for Francis A. MacKinnon at Acrise.

**PERCY, WRIGHT.** No clear trace, but two casualties have been found using various data, both of whom have Kent connections, as such, both have been briefly commemorated below.

**WRIGHT, PERCY FREDERICK.** Lance Corporal, 8872.  
2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment.  
Died 29 November 1914.  
Born Halling, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent.  
Resided Stoney Stratford, Buckinghamshire.  
Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 8.

**WRIGHT, PERCY JOHN.** Able Seaman, J/5531.  
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Formidable.  
Died 1 January 1915. Aged 21.  
Born Chilham, Kent 20 August 1893.  
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 10.

