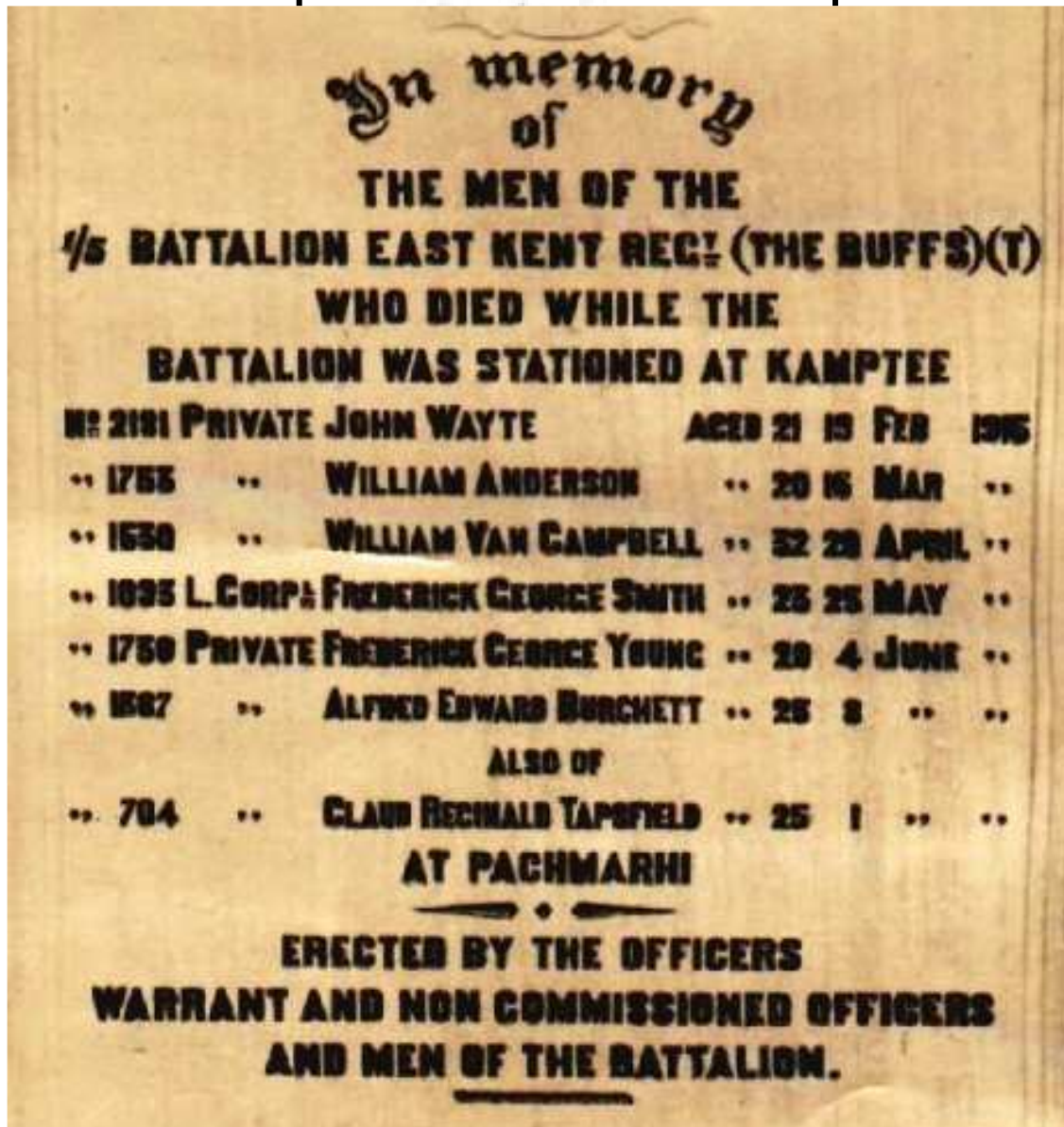


1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion  
The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)  
Kamptee Memorial Plaque





### **Veteri frondesict honore**

As can clearly be seen above, the memorial plaque was erected by all ranks of the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), in memory of six members of the battalion who died whilst at Kamptee, India, and another member of the battalion who died at Pachmarhi India. Kamptee is a town which is located in the Nagpur District of Maharashtra, India, and is 10 miles north-east of Nagpur. Situated on the banks of the Kanhan River, Kirke was founded in 1821 by the British as a military cantonment. The town is also spelt as Kamthi and Kamphi. The 'raison d'être' for Kamptee, the military cantonment, is still operational. Nowadays the Kamptee Cantonment is an important officer training establishment of the Indian Army. An Institute of Military Law and a Military Hospital functions here. Pachmarhi where Claude Tapsfield died is a small hill station situated in the Satpura Ranges in the state of Madhya Pradesh in central India. The plateau on which it is located was 'discovered' by a Captain Forsyth of the British Army in 1857, and it very quickly became a military establishment under the British. As under the British, the Indian army now dominates the plateau where it has set up educational facilities. All seven casualties commemorated on the memorial plaque, are officially commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1919 Memorial, which stands within the Kirkee War Cemetery, and that commemorates more than 1,800 servicemen who died in India during the Great War, who are buried in civil and cantonment cemeteries in India and Pakistan where their graves can no longer be properly maintained. This total includes the names of 639 servicemen whose remains were brought from Bombay (Sewri) Cemetery for re-interment here in 1960. Kirkee, which is also known as Khadki, is a Military Cantonment adjoining the large university town of Pune (formerly Poona), on the plateau above Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India. Mention should be made of the fact that several other members of the battalion who are not commemorated on the Kamptee Memorial Plaque, also died whilst serving in India, several of whom are

**WAYTE, JOHN NATHAN.** Private, T/2181.

1st/4th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 19 February 1915.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Son of Thomas Wayte and Mary Wayte of 170 Clarendon Street, Dover, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1919 Memorial. Face 3, and on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial. John was also commemorated on the Christ Church Parish Great War Memorial Plaque, Folkestone Road, Dover, Kent.

The brass memorial plaque above was fortunately removed from Christ Church, Dover, Kent at the time of its demolition in 1977. It is now thankfully in the safe keeping of the Dover Museum, Market Street, but regrettably this important Dover artifact it is not on display. At the time of the 1901 census, the Wayte family resided at 127, Clarendon Street, Dover, Kent. Head of the house was 57 year old Corsham, Wiltshire native Thomas Wayte, who was employed as a General Labourer. John was accidentally drowned at Kamptee. John's father died at Dover, Kent in 1916.

**ANDERSON, WILLIAM.** Private, T/1753.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 13 March 1915. Aged 20.

Born, enlisted and resided Folkestone, Kent.

Son of John and Sarah Anderson of 1, Sidney Street, Folkestone, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Poona, Maharashtra State, India. Face 3, and on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial, also on Great War memorial plaque at the George Spurgeon Community School, Sidney Street, Folkestone, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Anderson family resided at 21, Youngs Road, Folkestone, Kent. Head of the house was 51 year old native of Ireland John Anderson, who was an Own Account Bricklayer. Commemorated on the same two Folkestone forms of remembrance is William's brother, 32 year Charles Anderson who fell on 4 March 1917 whilst serving in the Army Service Corps, and is at rest at the Dar Es Salaam War Cemetery, Tanzania. Aged 15 at the time of the above census, Charles was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Boot Shop Assistant.



**CAMPBELL, WILLIAM VAN.** Private, T/1530.  
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.  
Died Thursday 29 April 1915. Aged 35.  
Born Eltham, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ashford, Kent.  
Husband of Kate Lillian Campbell (née Sargeant) of 7 Linden Road, Ashford, Kent.

Son of David and Mary Ann Campbell of Headcorn, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Poona, Maharashtra State, India. Face 3, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, also on the Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Mary, Ashford, Kent, and on Headcorn, Kent civic war memorial.

Before the commencement of the Great War, William worked in Ashford as a Sweep and Boot Repairer. It would appear that William was following in his fathers footsteps regarding his occupation, as at the time of the 1891 census, when the Campbell family resided at 1, Sandringham Cottages, West Green Road, Tottenham, London, 42 year old Dundee, Scotland native David Campbell was recorded by the census enumerator as being a Chimney Cleaner. William's tragic demise was reported in the Kentish Express - William was accidentally drowned whilst at Kamptee, India whilst serving with his battalion.

**SMITH, FREDERICK GEORGE.** Lance Corporal, T/1093.  
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.  
Died 25 May 1915. Aged 23.  
Born Newchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent. Enlisted Aldington, Ashford, Kent.  
Resided Bilsington, Ashford, Kent.  
Son of William Charles Smith and Florence Sarah Smith of Street Farm Cottage, Newchurch, New Romney, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Poona, Maharashtra State, India. Addenda. Face H, and on Great War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Bilsington, Ashford, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Smith family resided at Bridge Farm Cottages, Bilsington, Ashford, Kent. Head of the house was 39 year old Newchurch, Kent native William Charles Smith, who was employed as an

Agricultural Labourer. When Frederick enlisted in the Territorial Force for 4 years on 17 December 1912, he stated that he was 21 years and 1 month old, employed as a Farm Hand by F.F. Waddell Esq of The Denne, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, and that he resided at Bridge Farm Cottages, Bilsington, Ashford, Kent. At the time of his enlistment Frederick was asked by Sergeant Edward Boulding (later Captain), if he had any previous military experience or membership of a Cadet Force, to which Frederick stated that he had, as 2773 Co 2nd Canterbury battalion, C.L.B. (Church lads brigade). At Sandwich, Kent on 14 October 1914, Frederick signed the relevant Army Form (E264) volunteering for overseas service with the Territorial Force, and was posted to India on 3 December 1914. Frederick died of Enteric at Kamptee on 25 May 1915. Having already received Frederick's war medals, memorial plaque and scroll, in March 1924 his mother contacted Brevet Colonel John Body at Wittersham Court, Wittersham, Ashford, Kent, requesting help in securing a Territorial Force War Medal in respect of Frederick's war service. Following the help given to her by Colonel Body who had commanded the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Mrs Smith was sent the T.E.F.M. on 20 June 1924. Purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but in view of the number of relatives of Great War Territorial Force casualties spoken to over the years, it would seem likely that a not insignificant number of next of kin never applied for the medal after it was established in 1920, although approximately 34,000 were issued, it being the rarest of the British Great War medals.

**YOUNG, FREDERICK GEORGE.** Private, T/2427.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died 4 June 1915. Aged 18.

Born St. Peters, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Robert A. and Clara Young of 41, Rodney Street, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Poona, Maharashtra State, India. Face 3.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Young family resided at Aklow Cottage, St. Peters, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Robert A. Young, who was a native of Scotland and employed as a Foreman Gardener.



**BURCHETT, ALFRED EDWARD.** Corporal, T/1367.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died Sunday 6 June 1915. Aged 25.

Born Barham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ashford, Kent.

Son of George and Mary Ann Burchett (née Williams), 90 Albemarle Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent, who later resided at 7 Wallis Road, Ashford, Kent.

Husband of Edith Emily Burchett (née Weller) of Ball Lane, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, who later resided at Goat Lees, Kennington, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Poona, Maharashtra State, India. Face 3. In addition to his official form of commemoration on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Alfred also has at least four forms of his remembrance in Kent. He is commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, and on Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary, Ashford, Kent, he is commemorated on the Ashford Railway Works Rolls of Honour at Ashford Library, and on the Chatham & South Eastern Railway Company war memorial, at the Marine Station, Dover, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Burchett family resided at 9, Star Road, Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent. Kent. Head of the house was 32 year old Folkestone, Kent native George Burchett, who was employed as a Railway Signaller by the Chatham & South Eastern Railway Company. When Alfred enlisted for 4 years service in the United Kingdom as a member of the Territorial Force on 8 August 1914, he stated that he was employed by the Chatham & South Eastern Railway Company at the Ashford Railway Works as a Carriage Fitter, that he was 23 years and 11 months old, and resided at 37 Star Road, Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent. In reply to being asked if he had any previous military service, Alfred stated that he had served for 5 years in "H" Company, 5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At Sandwich, Kent on 14 October 1914, Alfred signed the relevant Army Form (E264) volunteering for overseas service with the Territorial Force, and was posted to India on 24 October 1914. Alfred died of acute gastritis on Sunday 6 June 1915. In the Spring of 1921, Alfred's widow married Archibald H Reed and resided at 90 Albemarle Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent. For more comprehensive information appertaining to Alfred, please also so see his individual commemoration on the Ashford Great War casualties on this website.



**TAPSFIELD, CLAUDE REGINALD.** Private, T/704.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion.

Died Tuesday 1 June 1915. Aged 25.

Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ashford.

Son of Frederick Tapsfield and Laura Louisa Tapsfield (née Munn) of 2 East Hill, Ashford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Poona, Maharashtra State, India. Face 3, and on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial. Claude was also commemorated on the Great War memorial plaque of the Ashford, Kent branch of the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Friendly Society, which used to hang in the branch office at Regents Place, Ashford, Kent. Unfortunately, at the time of posting these brief commemorations nobody knows what happened to the latter form of commemoration.

Formerly Bandsman, T/704, 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Claude was born at East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent on 5 June 1889. At the time of the 1901 census, the Tapsfield family resided at 99, Kingsley Road, Maidstone, Kent. Head of the house was 29 year old East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent native Frederick Tapsfield, who was employed as a Merchants Assistant. Claude's father Frederick Tapsfield; served for 18 years in the Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles. His mother Laura was the daughter of Valentine Munn who was the sole survivor of the original 80 members of the East Kent Volunteers at Maidstone, Kent. Claude was educated at the British School, Ashford, Kent and the South East Agricultural College Wye, Ashford, Kent. Claude enlisted for 4 years in the Territorial Force on 20 May 1909, at which time he stated that he was aged 19 years and 1 month, and that he was employed as a Carpenter at the South East Agricultural College Wye, Ashford, Kent. After leaving Wye Claude went to work at his fathers Newsagents and Tobacconists in Ashford. Initially Claude served in the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) as a Bandsman (clarinet player), and won awards for his clarinet playing at a number of venues including Crystal Palace in London. Shortly after the commencement of the Great War, Claude volunteered for overseas service in the Territorial Force, and on 29 October 1914 he was posted to India with his battalion. He became ill with appendicitis and an operation was required in order to save his life. Claude died on the operating table while this

surgery was taking place, his death being recorded as Appendicitis, and Blood Poisoning. Claude's commanding officer Captain F. Muckley wrote – "Tapsfield was not only a clever musician and good soldier, but was so well liked by every one of us for his cheerful good fellowship. He was attended to his grave by every man of the 5<sup>th</sup> Buffs stationed at Pachmarhi and buried with military honours."

