Kent Cyclist Battalion
(Territorial Force)

1/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion Memorial Plaque
Canterbury Cathedral
India March 1916 to November 1919

The military use of cycles had begun in the mid 1880’s when a number of the old Volunteer Battalions had set up Cyclist Sections, whose brief was to defend Great Britain in the advent of an invasion, being something akin to part time rapid response unit. All changed during the Second Boer War (1899–1902), when cyclists effectively carried out a number of vital tasks, and by the start of the last century there were approximately 8000 cyclists in various Companies and Volunteer sections. A major reorganization abolished all local Militia, and brought the Yeomanry and other Volunteer formations together with the forming of the Territorial Force on 1 April 1908, at which time there was only ten Territorial Cyclist Battalions, but at the commencement of the Great War the following Cyclist Battalions were then in existence:-

6th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Norfolk Regiment.
6th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Suffolk Regiment.
6th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Royal Sussex Regiment.
8th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Essex Regiment.
The Kent Cyclist Battalion (Territorial Force).
The Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion (Territorial Force).
The 5th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), East Yorkshire Regiment.
The Northern Cyclist Battalion (Territorial Force).
10th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment).
The Highland Cyclist Battalion (Territorial Force).
7th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Devonshire Regiment.
8th (Isle of Wight Rifles, "Princess Beatrice's") Battalion (Territorial Force), Hampshire Regiment.
9th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Hampshire Regiment.
7th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Welsh Regiment.

Upon being removed from regimental strength, on 31 March 1908, the 6th (Cyclist) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) was re-named as the Kent Cyclist Battalion, and at that time became Army Troops attached to the Home Counties Division (Territorial Force). Not all ties with the Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) were severed as the regiment provided the Permanent Staff of the original Kent Cyclist Battalion. Hildenborough, Kent resident Major Charles E. Warner, originally of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), was charged with the task of forming the Kent Cyclist Battalion, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel upon being given command of the battalion, and was later awarded an O.B.E. For many years until his death in 1937; Colonel Warner took an active interest in the fate of the former members of the Kent Cyclist Battalions. Prior to the Great War the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps had its Headquarters at the Drill Hall, Tonbridge, Kent. In 1915 it was attached to the 57th (2nd West Lancashire Division) for duties with the Kent and Sussex coastal defences. When the Army Cyclist Corps was formed in 1914, new units wore the Army Cyclist Corps cap badge, but members of the pre-existing units such as those briefly commemorated below continued to wear their old regimental badges. Although the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps was not of their number, in 1915 the first units of the Army Cyclist Corps went to serve overseas, but broken up as divisional companies, and were serving primarily in reconnaissance roles, and as Dispatch Riders, engaged on traffic directing duties and also assisting in locating stragglers and wounded personnel on the various battlefields. During the years of the Great War spent on active service, cyclists often found themselves attempting to negotiate unfriendly terrain, and on numerous occasions were forced to abandon their heavy army issue bicycles. Based on the individual cyclist units’ experiences, the British Army had little further role for the cyclists in that role. On 2 December 1915 the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, moved on to Chisledon Camp, Swindon, Wiltshire and was reorganised as an infantry battalion. Early in 1916, Chisledon Camp became the Headquarters of the Army
Cyclist Corps. From the time that the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion spent at Chisledon Camp it did not officially have 'Cyclist' in its title. In company with 2/6th (Cyclist) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, 1/9th (Cyclist) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment and the 1/25th (Cyclist) Battalion, London Regiment, they formed a brigade which was originally intended for service in East Africa. As the result of war time necessities a change was made by the War Office planners, and the battalion sailed for India on 8 February 1916. On arrival in India the battalion then came under command of the Southern Brigade, 9th (Secunderabad) Division. A move was made in December 1916 to the Ferozepore Brigade in 3rd Lahore Divisional Area., and in February 1917 the Brigade transferred to the 16th Indian Division. Of all the various English, Scottish, and Welsh battalions of the Army Cyclist Corps that served during the Great War years, the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion was the sole battalion to be awarded battle honours. The battle honours were 'North West Frontier India 1917,' and Baluchistan 1918. Post the Great War years, the battle honour 'Afghanistan' was also awarded to the battalion. Another battalion designated the 2/1st Battalion was formed in late 1914 as a second line unit, which remained in the United Kingdom. By 1916 the 2/1st Battalion was at based at Canterbury, Kent, and in March 1917 at Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. By August 1918 it had moved to Lydd Camp, Romney Marsh, Kent. A short lived 3/1st Battalion was formed in 1915 as a depot/training unit which was disbanded in 1916. The three battalions of the Kent Cyclists were all Territorial formations, which from 25 March 1909 until the Kent Cyclist Battalions disbandment in 1921, had as their Honoury Colonel, Chiddingstone, Kent resident, Colonel Sir Henry Streatfield, Bt. G.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., T.D., D.L. (1857-1938), who took his duties seriously, and like Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Warner, O.B.E., he too continued to take an active interest in the former members of the Kent Cyclist Battalions, and their families until his death on 26 July 1938. As the following Roll of Honour has been compiled using a variety of data sources, it is unlikely to be complete. No disrespect by any unfortunate omissions is intended to the memory of anybody who has been missed, or to their families.

**Roll of Honour**

1914 -1921

**ARGAR, ALBERT GEORGE.** Private, TF/265197.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Born and enlisted Folkestone, Kent.
Son of George and Annie Argar of 27, Gordon House, Bradstone Road, Folkestone.
Commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, India. Face 10, and on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial, also on a Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. John’s, Folkestone, Kent.

**ASPDEN, FRED.** Private, TF/27020.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 3 November 1918. Aged 27.
Born Church, Accrington, Lancashire. Enlisted and resided Rawtenstall, Lancashire.
Son of Edgar and Eliza Aspden of Cribden View, Rawtenstall, Lancashire.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10.
Formerly Private, M/271233, Royal Army Service Corps, and Private, G/27020, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
At the time of the 1901 census the Aspden family resided 45 Barnes Street, Church, Accrington, Lancashire.
BARNARD, HUGH. Private, TF/266327.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Son of William Charles and Kate Barnard of High Street, Newport, Saffron Walden, Essex.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10.
Formerly Private, 1459, 8th (Cyclist) Battalion (Territorial Force), Essex Regiment. As a civilian
Hugh was employed by his father as a Grocers Assistant. It would appear that Hugh’s age as
shown above, accessed from his CWGC commemoration details is wrong. When Hugh enlisted
at Saffron Walden, Essex on 12 October 1914, he stated his age as being 19 years and 29 days.
Hugh drowned at 1730 hours on the evening of 20 March 1917 whilst bathing in the river at
Poona, India, at a point about a mile and a half upstream of the Bund Bridge. Private, TF/1217,
Frederick A. Goodwin of the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent
Regiment reported Hugh’s death, stating that Hugh was not a strong swimmer, and that he had
struck out from the river bank, and before anything could be done Hugh had disappeared. At
1300 hours on the day after he had drowned, Hugh’s body was recovered from the river, Early in
the morning of 22 March 1917, Hugh was laid to rest in Sholapur Road Cemetery, Poona, at
which time an officer and a number of British Military Clerks from the 13th Divisional Disbursing
office were in attendance, as was Captain A.S. Hoare of the 2/4th (Territorial Force) battalion,
Wiltshire Regiment, and a Subaltern representing the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion. Warrant
Office John Dubbin of the Dorsetshire Regiment was in charge of the burial party, and five
wreaths were placed on top of Hugh’s coffin by members of the office staff. Frederick Goodwin
who had reported Hugh’s death, latter received a commission in the Indian Army.

BIRCH, ERNEST ARTHUR. Serjeant, TF/265703.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent 7 December 1914.
Son of Emily Olive Birch of 8, Sydney Road, East Cliff, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and the
late Harry Walter Birch.
Ernest is commemorated by the CWGC with the rank of Private, but when he died of Myelitis at
Rawalpindi, he was an acting Serjeant. At the time of his enlistment, Ernest resided at 1 Abbots
Hill, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

BLACK, LEWIS ALFRED. Corporal, TF/265455.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 8 November 1918.
Born Folkestone, Kent 24 April 1894. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent 7 November 1914. Resided
Folkestone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10, and on the Folkestone, Kent
civic war memorial, also on Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. John,
Folkestone, Kent.
Formerly Corporal, TF/1205, 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
At the time of his enlistment, Shop Assistant, Lewis resided at 25 Bournemouth Road,
Folkestone, Kent. Lewis died at the Dalhousie Stationary Hospital, Himachel Pradesh, India, and
was a victim of the world wide Influenza pandemic which ultimately claimed more lives than the
Great War.
BRACE, WILLIAM THOMAS. Private, TF/265898.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 4 September 1917. Aged 28.
Son of the late Thomas Brace, and of Annie Maria Brace of "Stormont," Thornton Road, Little Heath, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10.
Formerly Private, TF/1753, 2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion.
Prior to enlisting William had been employed as a Gardner. William died of Malaria at the Dalhousie Stationary Hospital, Himachal Pradesh, India. Dalhousie where a number of William’s battalion died was a summer retreat location.

CHACKSFIELD, HERBERT GEORGE. Private, TF/265152.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Born and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent 14 January 1913.
Son of Edgar and Claris Chacksfield of 5 Priory Road, Dartford, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10, and on the Dartford, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of his enlistment Herbert was employed as a Postman, based at the General Post Office, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and residing at 1 Dunstan Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. On 28 October 1918 Herbert was laid to rest at the Ferozepore Military Cemetery, India, Grave Ref: C. 147. On the night of 1901 census the Chacksfield family was still residing in the St. John’s area of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Unfortunately it has not been possible to ascertain the actual place of abode which is possibly 12 Mewcommon Road? Herbert’s 31 year old father Edgar Chacksfield was recorded by the census enumerator as being the head of the house, and a native of Hastings, Sussex, who was employed as a Coach Trimmer working in leather. 29 year old Claris Chacksfield was a native of Battle, Sussex. Also in residence was Herbert’s younger sister Lucy Chacksfield, aged 3 who like her brother was also a native of Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

CHARMAN, ARTHUR LEONARD CHARLES. Lieutenant.
Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 15 February 1921. Aged 27.
Buried Birmingham (Lodge Hill) Cemetery, Warwickshire.
Grave Ref: Screen Wall commemoration. B10. 2. 229.
 Formerly Colour Sergeant, 140, Royal Sussex Regiment, and Acting Company Quarter Master Serjeant, 265360, Royal Sussex Regiment.
The cemetery where Arthur is at rest contains 498 Great War burials; most of them are in a war graves plot in Section B10. The names of those buried in the plot (including Arthur), or in graves elsewhere in the cemetery which could not be individually marked are inscribed on a Screen Wall.

CHURCH, WILLIAM ROBERT. Private, TF/1202.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 12 October 1915.
Enlisted Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Resided Hythe, Kent.
Commemorated on the Hythe, Kent civic war memorial, and on a Great War memorial plaque located outside the United Reformed Church, East Street, Hythe, Kent, also on a similar memorial plaque at St. Leonards School, St. Leonards Road, Hythe, Kent.
CLARK, WILLIAM ARTHUR. Private, TF/2176. 
2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion. 
Attached to the 7th (Service) Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). 
Son of James Edwin and Margaret Clark of 5, Victoria Terrace, Seabrook, Hythe, Kent. 
Buried Estaires Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. 
Grave Ref: II. G. 10. 
Hythe, Kent civic war memorial, and on a Great War memorial plaque located in St. Martins Church, Cheriton, Kent. 
William was attached to the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment on 13 August 1916. Exactly a week after his attachment, William received gunshot wounds to his face and left arm, to which he succumbed on 20 August 1916.

COCKS, THOMAS FRANK. Private, TF/1213. 
3rd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. 
Born Folkestone, Kent. Enlisted Sandgate, Kent. 
Died 7 February 1916. 
Buried Old Cemetery, Folkestone, Kent. Grave Ref: B. "U." 100. 
Commemorated on the Folkestone, Kent civic war memorial.

COMPTON, GEORGE. Private, TF/27176. 
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. 
Died 16 November 1918. 
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10. 
Formerly Private, M/272615, Royal Army Service Corps.

CORNWALL, FRANCIS. Private, TF/265153. 
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. 
Attached to the 12th Brigade Signals Section, Royal Engineers. 
Died 26 November 1917. 
Born London, Middlesex. Enlisted Bromley, Kent 1 January 1914. 
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Henry Cornwall of "Oaklands," 13, Lynchett Road, Bromley, Kent. 
At the time of his enlistment, Francis was aged 17 years and 1 month. Other brief details given at the time of his enlistment were that Francis was employed by the Bromley Electric Light Company as an Electrical Assistant, and that his home address was Crescent Road, Bromley, Kent. Having had an attack of Malaria and a bout of Dysentery commencing on 15 October 1917, Francis was admitted as a patient at the 15 Casualty Clearing Station. Francis initially responded well to his medical treatment to such an extent that he was much better, when he was transferred to the 16 Casualty Clearing Station on 24 October 1917. On 3 November 1917, Francis entered the No. 2 British General Hospital as a walking patient, where he received various treatments, but on 17 November 1917 Francis was placed on the "Seriously Ill List," as N.Y.D. Fever. On 21 November with his health failing, and showing the symptoms of Double Pneumonia he was then placed on "Dangervously Ill List" of patients. From the time of being the latter list, Francis’s health was sometimes improved, and on other occasions showing signs of deterioration, much to the consternation of medical staff. At 0955 hours without warning Francis suddenly collapsed gasping for breath, and at exactly 1000 hours expired. The findings of a later Postmortem confirmed that Francis had died of Double Pneumonia.
COX, ALEXANDER. Private, TF/1744.  
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.  
Son of Mrs. E. Wraight of 40, High Street, Sandwich, Kent.  
Buried in Bangalore (Hosur Road) Cemetery, India.  
Commemorated on the Madras 1914-1918 War Memorial, Chennai, India.  
Face 25.

DARLINGTON, JOSEPH. Private, TF/266507.  
Kent Cyclist Battalion.  
Died 17 May 1919.  
Commemorated on the Karachi, 1914-1918 War Memorial, Pakistan.

DENNIS, THOMAS. Private, TF/265820.  
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.  
Died 7 November 1918.  
Born Boxley, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10.

DEWELL, FREDERICK EDWIN. Private, TF/266085.  
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.  
Died 9 November 1918. Aged 25.  
Born Walmer, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Son of Frederick John and Annie Dewell of 62, York Road, Lower Walmer, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10, and of Great War memorial plaque located in the Victoria Hospital, Deal, Kent.

DINES, PERCY VICTOR. Private, TF/265816.  
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.  
Died 29 July 1918.  
Born and resided Ash, Sandwich, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10, and on the Ash, Sandwich, Kent civic war memorial.

DUNN, GODFREY LAWRENCE. Captain.  
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.  
Died 21 September 1920.  
Son of Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Dunn and Helen Flora Dunn of Andenene Oaks, Southborough, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.  
Buried Royal Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, Kent Grave Ref: B. 3. 257.  
At the time of the 1901 census the Dunn family (minus Godfrey), was residing at Redleaf, Sandhurst Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The transcriber of these brief commemorations is not sure if the Redleaf recorded by the census enumerator is the name of a house, or a cul-de-sac which is off Sandhurst Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Edwin Dunn, aged 67 was the Head of the house, and had served in the Corps of Transport,

ETHERINGTON, JOHN WILLIAM. Private, TF/266515.  
2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.  
Died 3 January 1917.  
Born and enlisted Faversham, Kent.  
Buried Plymouth (Western Mill) Cemetery, Devon.  
Grave Ref: Consecrated C. 3529.
FAIRBRASS, PERCY JAMES. Private, TF/266481.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 5 November 1918. Aged 20.
Born and enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Fairbrass of 14, Jacob’s Place, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10, and on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.

FARMER, ALBERT CHARLES. Private, TF/266660.
2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 13 April 1918. Aged 42.
Born Deptford, Kent. Enlisted Gravesend, Kent.
Husband of Martha Elizabeth Farmer of 33, Bridge Street, Folkestone, Kent.

FARRIER, JOHN. Private, TF/1419.
Kent Cyclist Battalion.
Son of John and Margaret Farrier of 5, Slater Terrace, Upper Walmer, Kent.
Buried Walmer, Kent (St. Mary) Old Churchyard. Grave Ref: 162.
Commemorated on a Great War memorial plaque which is located in the Victoria Hospital, Deal, Kent.
At the time of the 1901 census the Farrier family was probably residing at Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent, where then 3 year old John (junior) was born.

GOODMAN, REGINALD SIDNEY. Private, TF/265596.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 11 September 1918.
Born and enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10.
Places of birth and enlistment are as accessed from Reginald’s entry in/on SDGW, which of course might be perfectly correct. It was however noted that at the time of the 1901 census, a 7 year old Basingstoke, Hampshire native, Reginald S. Goodman was residing in Tonbridge, Kent, who might be this casualty. Unfortunately it has not been possible to read the census enumerators writing when viewing the Goodman family address. The parents’ names were John F. and Lucy Goodman.

HALE, FREDERICK WILLIAM JOHN. Private, TF/38926.
"C" Company, 2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 5 May 1915. Aged 18.
Born Therfield, Hertfordshire. Enlisted Hertford, Hertfordshire.
Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hale of 19, West Terrace, Baldock Road, Royston, Hertfordshire.
Buried Royston Church Additional Burial Ground, Royston, Hertfordshire.
Commemorated on the Royston, Hertfordshire civic war memorial.

HAWKES, ALFRED THOMAS. Private, TF/265454.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Attached to the 3rd Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers.
Born Deal, Kent.
Son of Arthur and Annie Hawkes of Malvern Cottages, Green Lane, Upper Walmer, Kent.
Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: EE. 64.
HAWKLEY, GEORGE. Lance Corporal, TF/265887.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 20 July 1917.
Born and resided Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Elizabeth Royall and the step-son of Thomas Royall.
Buried Bannu Cemetery, Peshawar, Pakistan. Grave Ref: 78.
At the time of the 1901 census George was 15 years old, and employed as a Brewers Labourer.
George was residing with his mother and stepfather at 10, York Street, Horninglow, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire. In addition to the aforementioned were George's brother, 17 year old Engine Cleaner, John Hawkley, and a step-brother plus four step-sisters. All nine members of the family, who were at home on the night of the census, were recorded by the census enumerator as being natives of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

HILLS, BERTRAM. Private, TF/265981.
"C" Company, 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 7 November 1918. Aged 21.
Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of George James Hills and Minnie Hammond (formerly Hills) of Grove Green, Boxley, Maidstone, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10, and on the Boxley, Maidstone, Kent civic war memorial. Bertram is commemorated on the latter memorial as B. Hills, but please note the following information appertaining to him. On some data checked, Bertram is recorded as Private, TF/265981, BERTRAM RELF, it being the surname alias with which he enlisted and served in the Army Cyclist Corps.

HILLS, FRANK STANLEY. Lance Corporal, TF/265438.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Born and enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Edwin Arthur Hills of 36, Dane Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Husband of the late Phoebe Hills of Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire.

HOLLIDAY, THOMAS. Private, TF/266705.
2nd/1st Kent Cyclists Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 11 January 1917.
Born and enlisted Folkestone, Kent.
Buried Folkestone, Kent, Old Cemetery. Grave Ref: C. "C." 1804.

HUGHES, ERNEST EDWARD. Private, TF/265577.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 30 July 1918.
Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Ranikhet New Cemetery, Almora, Uttarakhand, India.
Commemorated on the Madras 1914-1918 War Memorial, Chennai, India. Face 25, and on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.

HUNT, FREDERICK C. Private, TF/265235.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 2 February 1919.

LORD, CHARLES HENRY. Serjeant, TF/265043. 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. Died 3 July 1919. Aged 30. Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Lord of 29, Grove Hill Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Buried Rawalpindi War Cemetery, Pakistan. Grave Ref: 2. B. 10. Formerly Serjeant, 366, 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. Also served as Acting Warrant Officer (Class 2), Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).


MAY, JESSE. Corporal, TF/265682. 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. Died 8 May 1919. Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10. Due to his date of death there is no SDGW entry for Jesse, and as it would appear that no Form F.V. /48B with additional family details was not returned by his family, to the Imperial War Graves Commission, it has been able to add same. A check of the 1901 census was also carried out in the hope of tracing further details appertaining to Jesse, but regrettably to no avail.

On the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps memorial plaque in Canterbury Cathedral, which commemorates those who lost their lives whilst serving in India. Amongst those whom the plaque commemorates is a casualty named Private E. MEADER who has not been traced, but who is probably the following member of the battalion.

MEADER, ARTHUR ERNEST. Private, G/27131. 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. Died 21 September 1917. Aged 20. Born Battersea, London. Enlisted London. Resided Peckham, Surrey. Son of Henry Edward and Florence Kate Meader. Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face E. Formerly Private, M/270516, Army Service Corps, and Private, G/27131, Cyclist Section, 2nd Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census the Meader family was probably residing at 77, New Road, Battersea, unfortunately the census enumerator has made a number alterations to his returns sheets, which causes a bit of confusion re the correct address. Arthur’s father, General Labourer and Peckham native Hervey Meader aged 27, was recorded as being the Head of the house. Arthur’s mother, Florence Kate Meader was recorded as being a 25 year old native of Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10, and on the Bekesbourne, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.


PEETE, FRANK N. Corporal, TF/265095. 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. Died 26 July 1919. Aged 26. Born Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of George and Florence E. Peete of 97, St. Luke’s Avenue, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face E. At the time of the 1901 census the Peete family resided at 51, Finsbury Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, where Frank’s father, Broadstairs, Kent native, 41 year old George Peete was the Head of the house.


POTTER, ROBERT F. Private, TF/265417. 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. Died 13 October 1918.
Born Hythe, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 11.

POWELL, GERALD FREDERICK WATSON. Major.
1/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps, attached to the 8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Born at the Manor House Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent 24 April 1891.
Son of Charles Watson Powell and Elizabeth Constance Powell, of the Manor House, Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Buried Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Extension, Dikkebus, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: II. F. 22.
Commemorated on the Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Harrow School, Middlesex, Great War Roll of Honour, Gerald is also named amongst the 188 Great War dead who are commemorated on the Magdalen College, Oxford, war memorial.
Gerald was educated at The Grange Crowborough, Sussex, St. Wilfred’s, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, and at Harrow, Middlesex, whence he proceeded to Magdalen College, Oxford. After taking his degree Gerald had intended to become a Barrister, and was studying with that object when the Great War broke out. He had joined the Territorial Force in 1911 as a Second Lieutenant in the 1/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, and was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1914. Early in 1917 he was attached to the 8th (Service) Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), joining that battalion in May 1917 with the rank of Major. Having been present at various actions in which his battalion was engaged on the Western Front Gerald was killed in action on Hill 60 which is located approximately three miles south-east of Ieper (Ypres), West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. It is not a natural feature, but was made from the spoil removed during the construction of the railway line nearby.

PRICE, ARCHIE. Private, TF/266447.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Son of William and Elizabeth Price of The Yew Trees, Blean, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Sarah Elizabeth Price of 18, Lancaster Road, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Delhi (India Gate) Memorial. Face 23, and on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.
REID, DAVID. Private, TF/1026.
2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps, attached to the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Born enlisted and resided Ashford, Kent.
Son of David and Grace Reid of 128, Godinton Road, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: I. K. 22.
Commemorated on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial, and on the Chatham & South Eastern Railway Company war memorial at the former Marine Station, Dover, Kent. David is also commemorated on the Ashford Railway Rolls of Honour which are in the safe keeping of Ashford, Kent Library. For far more comprehensive details appertaining to David and his family, please also see his tribute on the Ashford, Kent civic war memorial commemorations on this website.

RICHMOND, CLAUD. Private, TF/1118.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 23 September 1915.
Born Erdington, Birmingham. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Christopher and Mary Richmond of 11, Hilly Fields Crescent, Brockley, London.

ROBERTS, ERNEST SAMUEL. Private, TF/1317.
2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 19 August 1916.
Born and enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Buried Brewery Orchard Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: IV. E. 8.
At the time of the 1901 census 12 year old Ernest, the youngest of the Roberts family was residing with his parents, Amos and Martha Roberts, and his three brothers and three sisters at 28, Lodge Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Horsmonden, Kent native, 45 year old Amos Roberts was the Head of the house, and an 'Own Account' Oilman and Shopkeeper, his business being conducted from his home address. Ernest's mother, 50 year old Martha was a native of Wadhurst, Sussex.
SAWYER, FREDERICK. Private, TF/265272.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 22 January 1917. Aged 22.
Born Burwash, Sussex. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of William and Jane Sawyer of 20, Norfolk Road, Tonbridge, Kent.
At the time of the 1901 census the Sawyer family was residing at 105 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Frederick’s father a 38 year old native of London, was the Head of the house, and an ‘Own Account’ Fruiter and Grocer, his business being conducted from his home address. Frederick’s mother 37 year old Jane was a native of Orpington, Kent. In addition to the aforementioned, six brothers and two sisters of Frederick’s were also at home on the night of the census. The eldest three children were born at Orpington, Kent, the next at London, the next at Battle, Sussex, then Frederick, and the three youngest family members were all natives of Tonbridge, Kent, including two week old Percy.

SCHOFIELD, ALEXANDER TRAIES. Captain.
Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Attached to the 2nd Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Born Camberwell, London.
Son of the late Frank Schofield, M.D., and the late Anne Schofield (née Traies), of London.
Alexander was a graduate of Exeter College, Oxford University, having been admitted to the College at the Michaelmas Term of 1912. At the time of the 1901 census the Schofield family was residing at "Windermere," Spa Road, Melcombe Regis, Weymouth, Dorset. Frank Schofield, M.D., a 61 year old Doctor and a native of Saddleworth, Yorkshire was the Head of the house. Alexander’s 46 year old mother was a native of Exeter, Devon. In addition to Alexander and his parents, three of his brothers and a sister were at home on the night of the census, all of whom were also natives of Camberwell, London.

SCOTT, CHARLES WILLIAM. Private, TF/266397.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 11 November 1918.
Born Sevenoaks Weald, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. (Please see below).
Eldest son of William H. and Emily Scott of Noah’s Ark, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 11, and on the Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent civic war memorial.
Charles was a victim of the world wide Influenza pandemic, which ultimately claimed more lives than the Great War. Recorded in/on SDGW as born Sevenoaks Weald, Kent, but on the 1901 census when the family resided at Noah’s Ark, Kemsing, he is shown as being a 14 year old native of Hildenborough, Kent. The other five children of William and Emily were recorded by the census enumerator as Kemsing natives. The youngest of the Scott brothers also died in the Great War, he being:-

SCOTT, ARTHUR ERNEST. M.M. Private, G/23885.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment.
Born Kemsing, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: III. O. 38.
Arthur had been wounded in action and evacuated back to the United Kingdom, and after recovering Arthur returned to France in December 1917. Awarded the Military Medal in March 1918. Another of the Scott brothers, William was wounded, but fortunately survived the Great War.
SEIVWRIGHT, JOSEPH B. Private, TF/267389.
Kent Cyclist Battalion.
Died 18 October 1919.
Probably born Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, about 1884.
Buried Kearn Cemetery, Auchindoir and Kearn, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.
Grave Ref: Near North-East corner.
Formerly Private, 67059, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

SMITH, CYRIL GEORGE. Lance Corporal, TF/265219.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 10 November 1918.
Born Wroxham, Norfolk. Enlisted and resided Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 10.
At the time of the 1901 census the Smith family was residing at The Avenue, Wroxham, Norfolk.
Cyril's parents were 36 year old Cromer, Norfolk native John Smith, and 39 year old Annie H. Smith, a native of Croydon, Surrey, who was recorded by the census enumerator as being blind.
In addition to the aforementioned, three of Cyril's brothers were also at home on census night, as was his 67 year old grandmother, Paddington, London native Hannah Creasy.

SMITH, ERNEST CROSS. Private, TF/266156.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 5 November 1918. Aged 25.
Born Malton, North Yorkshire. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of James Pratt and Elizabeth Smith of 53, Newbiggin, Malton, North Yorkshire.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 11.

SOUTHERN, ALBERT EDWARD. Private, TF/265680.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 12 September 1917. Aged 27.
Born Preston, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of James and Emma Southern of Preston Forstall, Preston, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 11.

THOMSON, FREDERICK ALFRED. Corporal, TF/265676.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 31 July 1917. Aged 22.
Born and enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Mrs. Patience Elizabeth Richardson of 6, Bossom Square, Hastings, Sussex.

A significant number of the war memorials or other forms of rememberance, including the rolls of honour that have been transcribed and/or constructed for inclusion of 'Kentfallen,' have included at least one casualty who has proved elusive to positively identify for a number of reasons. Amongst the myriad of 'problem' casualties are those which arise as the result of conflicting data on the individual concerned. John Topham briefly commemorated below is an excellent example of conflicting data. SDGW records John as shown below, but the CWGC ‘Dept of Honour’ shows him as serving in the non existent 2nd/1st Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Checking the Great War casualty roll of the regiment revealed no personnel with the surname as having died. Medal Index Card entry for James also records him as being a member of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), with the regimental number as shown below. Unfortunately it would appear that many of those who died during or resultant of the Great War whilst serving in the Kent Cyclist Battalions, were also recorded as having members of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), possibly resultant of the cyclists regimental lineage.
2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Born Audley, Staffordshire. Enlisted Newcastle.
Buried Audley, Staffordshire (St James) Churchyard.
Grave Ref: North-East of Church.

Tubb, Frederick George. Private, TF/1167.
Kent Cyclist Battalion.
Died 26 November 1914.
It would appear that Frederick’s family was amongst the thousands who did not return the Form F.V. /48B with additional family details to the Imperial War Graves Commission, and as such it has not been able to add same here at his brief commemoration. He does however appear to be the Bethnal Green, London native, aged 12 years old at the time of the 1901 census, employed as a Card Lad Nipper. If this is a correct match, his parents were 43 year old French Polisher, Shoreditch, London native Frederick Tubb, and 42 year old Furniture Upholsterer Emma Tubb who was also born at Shoreditch, London. The family was residing at 10 Newtheorpe Street, Harpurhey, Manchester, Lancashire. In addition to the aforementioned, Frederick’s 5 year old sister Elizabeth was also at home on the night of the census, and was a native of Hoxton, London.

Weeks, Sidney Charles. Private, TF/265633.
1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Bovey Tracey, Devon.
Son of William H. and Jane Weeks of Virginia Cottage, East Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face E.

1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Son of Alfred and Florence Fanny Wood.
Born and enlisted Chatham, Kent. Resided Gillingham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Kirkee, India 1914-1918 Memorial. Face 11.

Worrell, Thomas Edward. Private, TF/791.
"A" Company, 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Died 20 November 1915.
Born Chislet, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Wye, Ashford, Kent.
Buried Wye (SS Gregory and Martin) Churchyard, Kent.
Grave Ref: South of West end of Church, near Main Gate.
Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque located in the porch of the parish church of SS Gregory and Martin, Wye, Kent. Probably also formerly commemorated on the Wye, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.
A member of the Wye Brass band, Thomas died of Acute Pneumonia whilst undergoing training in the United Kingdom. For a far more comprehensive commemoration of Thomas please see the Wye, Kent, Great War commemorations on this website, including additional details appertaining to the ‘missing names’ on the Wye, Ashford, Kent civic war memorial.
Former Members of the Kent Cyclist Battalion
Roll of Honour

As is probably the unfortunate situation above with the Kent Cyclist Battalions, Army Cyclist Corps Roll of Honour, doubtless other casualties have not been accessed for inclusion below, who should be commemorated via same. It does however seem right to remember the sacrifice of the following soldiers.

**BUTLER, FRANK.** Corporal, 72588.
18th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Died 5 May 1918.
Born Newnham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury.
Son of John and Annie Butler.
Husband of Emily S. Butler of Nursery Cottage, Brogdale Road, Faversham, Kent.
Formerly Private, 1831, Kent Cyclist Battalion.
Commemorated on the Bridge, Canterbury, Kent, civic war memorial which commemorates Frank as a Private, but all data accessed shows his rank as a Corporal.

**ELLIOTT, JOSEPH JOHN.** Corporal, TF/615449.
Died 16 October 1918.
Born Walworth, Surrey. Enlisted Gravesend, Kent. Resided Northfleet, Kent.
Buried Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: II. E. 17.
Formerly Corporal, TF/2680, 2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.

**HALL, SAMUEL BECKERLEG.** Private, 395700.
Died 26 April 1919. Aged 29.
Son of Mrs. Evelina Hall of 21, Church Street, Helston, Cornwall.
Formerly, Private, TF/267099, 2nd/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Commemorated on the Helston, Cornwall civic war memorial.

**PHILLIPS, FRANK HUGHES.** Private, 395688.
Died 5 November 1918. Aged 27.
Born Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Enlisted Mill Hill, Middlesex. Resided Harrow, Middlesex.
Son of Mr. F. J. Phillips of 21, Godstone Road, St. Margarets, Twickenham, Middlesex.
Formerly Private, TF/267016, Kent Cyclist Battalion.
SHERIDAN, NORMAN BRINSLEY. Private, G/27066.
Kent County Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 29 April 1919. Aged 34.
Born Wallasey, Cheshire.
Son of M. and A. Sheridan.
Husband of Mary E. Sheridan of 146, Seaview Road, Wallasey, Cheshire.
Buried Wallasey, Cheshire (Rake Lane) Cemetery.
Formerly Private, G/27066, 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Norman is named amongst those who are commemorated on the memorial plaque in Canterbury Cathedral, in memory of those who died having served in India with the 1st/1st Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps. Although Norman’s death certificate has not been sighted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, it would seem likely that Norman probably died resultant of a disease or illness due to his service in India.

WHITE, CLARENCE ASHTON. M.M. Serjeant, 19151.
1st Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Formerly Kent Cyclist Battalion, Army Cyclist Corps.
Commemorated on the Challock, Ashford, Kent parish tribute, and on Great War memorial plaque located in the Baptist Church, Ashford, Kent.
For far more in-depth details appertaining to Clarence, please see the Challock Great War commemorations on this website.