

# Manston



It is probably a fair assumption to make that any war related mention of Manston, Kent to most people, would evoke thoughts or in some cases memories, of the military airbase whilst in use by the R.A.F. or the U.S.A.A.F. In much the same way that as at other locations in Kent, where in past times were active and important airfields, the losses of Manston parishioners are probably overshadowed by the airforce personnel associated at the airbase. The Manston, Isle of Thanet civic war memorial is located on The Green, Manston in front of the parish church of St. Catherine's, and it was dedicated and unveiled on Tuesday 24 May 1921. One feature of the war memorial, which although not unique it is unusual, is that three of the four casualties of the Second World War whose names are inscribed on it, have been commemorated with the use of a Christian name by which they were all probably known, and called by all and sundry in the village and elsewhere, but which are not their correct names. Generally speaking, researching the British war related deaths of the Second World War, is a far harder task at anytime when compared to what is involved with those of the Great War, but with the use of the 'familiar' names at Manston, it has made it harder to identify the correct casualty for inclusion below. Mention should be made of the fact that whilst checking various data sources appertaining to the casualties of both world wars, the names Manston and Manstone have both been used and in the case of the latter on a significant number of occasions.

## The Great War

1914 -1919



**BEAN**, FREDERICK FRANK. Leading Stoker, K/6026.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hampshire.

Died Monday 5 June 1916. Aged 25.

Born Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent 2 April 1892.

Son of the late James Caleb and Mary Jane Bean of Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 16, as shown above.

H.M.S. Hampshire was a 10,850 ton Devonshire class, first-class armoured cruiser, she was built and launched at the Chatham Dockyard, between 1902 & 1904, and was commissioned in 1905. At 0750 hours on Monday 5 June 1916, when she was approximately a mile and a half miles off Marwick Head, Orkney, she hit a German mine and was sunk. At the time of her loss, H.M.S. Hampshire had the ships company of 655 officers and ratings on board, and 7 passengers who were Lord Kitchener and his staff. The bodies of over 100 officers and ratings were eventually recovered from the sea, and most were laid to rest at the Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Stromness, Orkney, Scotland.

**BINGHAM**, REGINALD ALFRED LESLIE. Private, S/13833.

1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders.

Died 19 July 1916. Aged 21.

Born and resided Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of M. E. Bingham of 1, High Street, Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: Plot 1. Row E. Grave 35.

**CULMER**, ARTHUR THOMAS. Sergeant, G/212.

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

Died 7 October 1916. Aged 20.

Born Sarre, Kent. Enlisted and resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Emma Culmer of Newport Cottage, Lydden, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of the late Charles Culmer.

Buried Bancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: VIII. A. 7.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Culmer family resided at 1, Chalk Hole Cottages, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 48 year old Monkton, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Charles Culmer, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. In/on SDGW, Arthur's place of birth is shown as Lane, Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent, but on the above census and on his service papers, it is recoded as Sarre, Kent. When he enlisted in the Army Reserve (Special Reservists) for 6 years on 17 August 1914, Arthur stated that he was 18 years and 4 months old, employed as a Farm Labourer and that he resided at his fathers house. Having been posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 24 August 1914, Arthur then remained in the same battalion until his death. On 27 November 1914, he was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal, and paid as such on 29 April 1915. After serving for 288 days at home, Arthur was posted to France on 1 June 1915. On 13 October 1915, Arthur was promoted to be a (paid) Lance Sergeant, and appointed to an Acting Sergeant on 14 April 1916. Arthur was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 13 July 1916. Arthur was numbered amongst the 8 officers and 121 other ranks that lost their lives in his battalion on 7 October 1916 The battalion total casualty roll for the day numbered 368. What follows is the War Diary entry for the day: - "Quiet morning. At 1.30 p m the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire and shrapnel barrage on the front line. At 1.45 p m the attack commenced. Very heavy M.G. fire was opened, which held up "C" Company on the right. "A" and "B" companies reached the 1st objective (Rainbow Trench) with fairly heavy casualties but on advancing from 1st to 2nd objectives were completely held up with M.G. fire. Twenty men of "C" Company succeeded in getting into the German trench, with troops from the 61st Brigade, and advanced with them. The 1st objective was held until 12 midnight when the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Queen's." Captain J.C. Page, the only officer of the battalion who was not either killed or wounded on 7 October 1916, led just forty other ranks from the field of the 'Battle of the Transloy Ridges,' and was later awarded the Military Cross.

**CULVER, GEORGE SYDNEY.** Private, 47779.  
25th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.  
Died 26 April 1917. Aged 31.  
Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Husband of Ethel Frances Culver of 60, Dumpton Park Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Athies Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: F. 4.  
Formerly Sapper, 167663, Royal Engineers.

**DENNETT, ALBERT RICHARD.** Private, G/35531.  
12th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.  
Died 27 September 1917. Aged 33.  
Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent. Resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Son of John and Harriet Dennett of Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Husband of Lucy Marion Dennett of Upper Lodge, Nether Court, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Hooze Crater Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: X. G. 8.  
Formerly 202557, Royal Engineers.

**ELLEN, WILLIAM THOMAS.** Private, G/23871.  
7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died 12 October 1917. Aged 18.  
Born Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Son of William Thomas and Lilian Annie Ellen of 1, Tilbury Villas, Whitehall, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 17.  
On the day that William lost his life, the 55 Brigade of the 18th (Eastern) Division, to which the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment) belonged; during the 'First Battle of Passchendaele' assaulted Poelcapelle and Meunier House at 0520hours, with the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), the 7th (Service) Buffs and the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surreys in single file attack formation. The East Surrey Regiment spectacular advance of approximately 500 yards was eventually brought to a halt resultant of intensive fire from two machine-guns, which were ensconced in a well constructed position approximately 100 yards east of Gloster Farm, later during the evening the brigade was reassembled, following which the officers and other ranks were brought back to reform an assembly line, 100yards in front of the forming up tape. Sidney's battalion undertook another attack with "D" and "C" Companies, but "C" Company came under fire almost immediately from Gloster Farm and Point 37, but "D" Company managed to push on through the houses of Poelcapelle, but then came under fire from Meunier House and the Brewery,

halting the attack with mounting casualties. The soldiers of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent's attacking with "B" company on the right, made quite good progress until they came under fire from the Brewery, although they were reinforced by "D" Company, the enemy fire power that they were subjected to was so intense and prolonged all they could do at the expense of even more casualties was to establish a series of posts just beyond their original line, "C" Company for a while continued to make progress until a strong point situated at the northern extremity of Poelcapelle brought them to a stop, after which they dug in to try and consolidate their gains. At midday the Germans launched a counter attack which was primarily concentrated towards the west of the village; their initial attack which was something of a probing type to try and ascertain the British strength was beaten off, as were several more later attacks 53 Brigade were in support and also had the 8th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment and the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment in the line, a significant gap between the Suffolk Regiment and the soldiers of the 4th Division was spotted by the Germans which resulted in the weak spot being attacked twice, the first of which occurred at noon and later at 0530 hours, both of which were successfully repelled.

**HOWLAND, WILLIAM JOHN.** Lance Corporal, 253974.

Royal Engineers.

Attached to the 93rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, Signal (Sub-Section).

Died 9 October 1918. Aged 25.

Born and enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Alfred and Charlotte E. Howland of 2, Stanley Cottages, Downs Road, Chilton, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Seine-Maritime, France.

Grave Ref: VIII. H. 11A.

Formerly 110798, 93rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, Signal (Sub-Section) Royal Engineers.

**HOWLAND, HERBERT.** Private, G/22387.

"C" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 23 March 1918. Aged 21.

Born St. Lawrence, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Herne Bay, Kent. Resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of F. J. and Mary Ann Howland of Nash Court Farm Cottages, Nash Court, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 16.

Herbert was amongst 27 members of his battalion that lost their lives in the same defensive action, that Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell V.C., D.S.O., commanding the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) won the Victoria Cross, both battalions being in the 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern Division). Two days prior to Herbert's death, the part played by his battalion on the first day of the 1918 German Spring Offensive, was not only heroic but quite literally lifesaving. As the numerically superior German army

pressed home their attacks, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was the only unit of the British 3rd Corps that held its ground in the forward zone of the battle area when it was attacked north of Travecy. In making the determined stand in the face of overwhelming odds, it enabled other units in the area to successfully fall back, regroup and reorganize behind the more easily defensible positions behind the Crozat Canal near Vendeuil to the south of Saint-Quentin. On 21 March 1917 the battalion was defending a front of almost five miles in conjunction with two other 18th (Eastern) Division infantry battalions, namely the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. As the day wore on the Germans captured Vendeuil, but the soldiers garrisoning the old French fort to the west of Vendeuil managed to hold on to their position. The 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) tenaciously held on to the village of Moy, until an enemy break through to north. Some units managed to fight on until about 1630 hours, with the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment Berks holding Alaincourt. Unfortunately the supporting Divisional Field Artillery was overrun in the fog, and captured as German Storm Troopers managed to slip past the defended posts. The 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) withdrew to a small wood to the south of their original defensive positions at 1400 hours, once their consolidation work quickly got underway, mainly in the form of constructing trenches and making suitable shell holes more secure and defensible, all of which was carried out by men who had been deprived of sleep, had been engaged in heavy fighting when outnumbered, and having not eaten. Due to being sent to assist the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment), it was not until about 1500 hours on 23 March that those who were able so to do, occupied the positions which had hastily been constructed under duress two days previously. It has not been possible to ascertain where, when or exactly how Herbert lost his life, but it would seem eminently feasible that it was whilst taking part in the same action that Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Bushell V.C., D.S.O., won his Victoria Cross.

**LAKER, EDWIN.** Private, G/46.

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

Died 13 October 1915. Aged 19.

Born and resided Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of George and Eliza Laker of Holly Lodge, Rumfields, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 16.

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 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 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 Edwin'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 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 Edwin's battalion on 13 October 1915 which was its first battle of the war, other assaulting battalions were able to make significant gains.

**LODGE, ERNEST JOSEPH.** Private, 75605.

9 Company, "C" Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Heavy Branch).

Died 20 April 1917. Aged 20.

Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Mrs. E. Lodge of "The Jolly Farmer Inn," Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: IV. B. 6.

Formerly Private, G/3029, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Ernest was a brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

**LODGE, WILLIAM THOMAS.** Private, G/9577.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 18 November 1916.

Born St. John's, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Lodge of "The Jolly Farmer Inn," Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref. IX. G. 9.

When William enlisted in the army on 27 January 1916, he stated that he was 20 years and 209 days old, employed as a Gardener, and residing at the above address. He was mobilised on 22 March 1916, and three days later William posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at The Citadel, Western Heights, Dover, Kent to start his military training. William was posted to France on 10 July 1916, and his first week was spent at the 38 Infantry base Depot, before joining the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 17 July 1916. Although the day on which William lost his life is recorded as the last day of 'The Battle of the Somme 1916,' as that was the date

chosen for same by Sir Douglas Haig. In the case of the 7th (Service) Battalion it was nonetheless an eventful and costly one, as by days end over 60 of the battalion personnel had been killed, most of whom fell during an attack on an enemy trench complex called Desire, which ran roughly parallel to the British trench line named Regina, and from which the cemetery where William is at rest takes its name. With rumors rife alluding to the scaling down of operations due to the onset of winter, it was something of an unwelcome directive from the battalions brigade HQ (55 Brigade) on 16 November 1916 to be ready for action the following day, going into forward trenches replacing soldiers of the Cheshire Regiment and the Welch Regiment on 17 November, the battalion subsequently were in action all day adjacent to Mouquet (Mucky) Farm which is equidistant of Pozieres and Thiepval on the D73, somewhat over shadowed by events of the 18 November the battalion nonetheless lost an officer, Lance Corporal and a Private, plus six other ranks wounded on 17 November. Having assembled in the snow earlier in the morning on 18 November with the rest of their brigade, the attack began at 0610 hours moving forward to attacked each of the four battalion's of the brigade's allotted enemy positions, but the attack was held up at times notably when subjected to intense enemy shelling at about 0645 hours, by 0810 hours the soldiers of the 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment entered Desire Trench where Canadian troops were consolidating their position gained, enemy resistance was both heavy and costly, although by the curtailment of the days fighting both Hessian and Zollern Trench had been reached, in addition to Desire, the battalion casualties however by the end of the action were 3 officers and 64 other ranks killed, in addition to which others were recorded as either wounded or missing.

**MAXTED, HARRY.** Stoker 1st Class, K/18376(PO).

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hampshire.

Died 5 June 1916. Aged 21.

Born Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent 31 December 1894.

Son of the late Mrs. Mary Ann Maxted of St. Peter's, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Stromness, Orkney, Scotland.

Grave Ref: F. 91A.

Please see the brief commemoration in remembrance of Frederick Bean; re the loss of H.M.S. Hampshire.



**SMITH, FRANK.** Private, G/5203.

7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died Sunday 21 March 1918. Aged 38.

Born Platts Heath, Sandway, Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted and resided Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Robert Smith of Platts Heath, Sandway, Maidstone, Kent.

Husband of Edith Mary Smith of 1, Salisbury Terrace, Haine, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 16.

When Frank enlisted in the army on 8 December 1914, he stated that he was employed as a Farm Labourer. He was posted to France on 31 August 1915. Initially, Frank served in the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and it whilst serving in that battalion he was wounded by shrapnel in both legs and feet on 18 August 1916; during the battalions costly attack at Waterlot Farm. The chain of events that led up to Frank being wounded began on 6 August 1916, when plans were put in place for his battalion along with the rest of their brigade to take over frontline trenches between Guillemont and Deville Wood on the Somme, but as so often happened due to the ebb and flow of battle during the Great War, plans were altered at the very last moment, one of the resultant changes found the battalion on 9 August in reserve positions situated on the Carnoy to Montauban road, the following day several casualties occurred when British artillery fired shells which dropped short. On 12 August the battalion which was still near Carnoy was heavily shelled all day, but on that occasion by the enemy. During the night of 17 August the battalion moved forward under the cover of darkness to take up assembly points in readiness for an attack near Waterlot Farm, which had been a German strong point in their second line of defence situated between Longueval and Guillemont, although it was called a farm, in fact it was a Sugar Refinery that had been captured from the Germans in mid July 1916. The battalion was in action all day, with the location known as Machine Gun House eventually falling to the officers and men of "A" Company, the northern end of a trench complex named ZZ Trench was taken by "C" Company, and although in terms of objectives being captured etcetera the day was a success for the battalion, but it had been costly as casualties that day were 1 officer and 60 men killed, plus 6 officers and 297 men wounded. On returning to duty having received treatment for over a year for his injuries, Frank served as Private, 198065 in the Labour Corps, prior to being transferred back to his former regiment as a member of the 7th (Service) Battalion, in which he then remained until his death on the opening day of the German Spring Offensive on Sunday 21 March 1918. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) fallen that are commemorated on the Pozières Memorial number 112, and are all named on Panel 16. On the day of Sidney's death, the part played by his battalion, was not only heroic but quite literally lifesaving. As the numerically superior German army pressed home their attacks, the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was the only unit of the British 3rd Corps that held its ground in the forward zone of the battle area when it was attacked north of Travecy. In making the determined stand in the face of overwhelming odds, it enabled other units in the area to successfully fall back, regroup and reorganize behind the more easily defendable positions behind the Crozat Canal near Vendeuil to the south of Saint-Quentin. Sidney was lost whilst crossing a bridge over one of the tributaries that feed into the St. Quentin Canal near Vendeuil, and his body never recovered. On 21 March 1917 the battalion was defending a front of almost five miles in conjunction with two other 18th (Eastern) Division infantry

battalions, namely the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. As the day wore on the Germans captured Vendeuil, but the soldiers garrisoning the old French fort to the west of Vendeuil managed to hold on to their position, the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) tenaciously held on to the village of Moy, until an enemy break through to north. Some units managed to fight on until about 1630 hours, with the 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment Berks holding Alaincourt. Unfortunately the supporting Divisional Field Artillery was overrun in the fog, and captured as German Storm Troopers managed to slip past the defended posts.

**STUDHAM, ERNEST.** Private, G/78121.

2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

Died 20 October 1918.

Born Monkton, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of George and Harriett Studham.

Buried Harlebeke New British Cemetery, Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: IX. B. 6.

Formerly Private, G/24889, Royal Sussex Regiment.

At the time of the 1901 census the Studham family resided at Fleets Farm, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 56 year old Monkton, Isle of Thanet, Kent native George Studham, who was a Farmer and employer.

**TERRY, CHARLES WILLIAM JESSE.** Private, 46504.

38th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died 10 July 1916. Aged 22.

Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of William and Alice Terry of 19, Pleasant Row, Rochester, Kent.

Buried Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: II. A. 27.

Formerly Private, G/535, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Charles was posted to France on 1 June 1915. His medal index card makes interesting reading, as it shows that when his 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, and his Victory Medal were issued to Charles's his next of kin, it would appear that they had been impressed with the wrong initials, and a note made of the correct ones i.e. C.W.J. It was decided to take no action to correct them and issue them as they were, but to correct all three if they were subsequently returned by Charles's family.

**WHEELER, CHARLES.** No clear trace at this time.

# The Great War

1914 -1919

## Lost Men

**BROCKMAN, GEORGE PERCY.** Lance Corporal, G/2500.

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

Died 4 July 1917. Aged 24.

Born St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Manston, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Albert and Tryphena Brockman of 1, Laslett Cottages, Westwood, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Hessen, Germany.

Grave Ref: II. A. 14.

**BULLEN, FREDERICK.** Private, GS/10386.

8th Reserve Cavalry Regiment.

Died 7 September 1915. Aged 24.

Son of John and Elizabeth Bullen.

Husband of H. H. Flint (formerly Bullen), of 18, Married Quarters, R.A.F Manston, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Buried Curragh Military Cemetery Curragh Military Camp, County Kildare, Republic of Ireland. Grave Ref: 1218.

**GRIGGS, EDWARD JAMES.** Private, 51988.

Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry).

Died 1 June 1918. Aged 29.

Born Stourmouth, Kent. Enlisted Tidworth, Hampshire. Resided St. Lawrence, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of William Charles Griggs, of 3, Jubilee Cottages, Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Husband of Rose Hannah Griggs of Stourmouth, Kent.

Buried All Saints Churchyard, Stourmouth, Kent. Grave Ref: West. 2. 8.

Formerly Private, 17055, 3rd Reserve Cavalry Regiment.

**LOTT, WILLIAM.** Lance Corporal, G/9727.

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

Died 7 October 1916. Aged 29.

Born Sholden, Kent. Enlisted and resided Faversham, Kent.

Son of Charles and Harriet Lott, of 3, Belmont, Sholden Bank, Deal, Kent.

Husband of Helen Rosina Clackett (formerly Lott), of 5, Spratling Street, Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D, and on the St. Leonards parish church war memorial, Deal, Kent.

Please see the brief commemoration in remembrance of Arthur Culver, for details of William's battalion on the day that Arthur and William died.

**SAMPSON, HARRY EDWARD.** Private, G/22927.  
12th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.  
Died 26 October 1918. Aged 33.  
Born Sheldwich, Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.  
Son of Samuel and Emily Samson of Sheldwich Lees, Faversham, Kent.  
Husband of Carrie Amelia Samson of Jubilee Cottages, Manston, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Heestert Military Cemetery, Zwevegem, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Ref: A. 4.  
Commemorated on the Sheldwich, Faversham, Kent civic war memorial.

## The Second World War

1939 – 1945

**CHURCH, VICTOR THOMAS.** Private, 6288906.  
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).  
Died between 10 May 1940 and 24 January 1941.  
Born and resided Kent.  
Son of George Alfred and Jessie Eliza Church of Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Merris Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave Ref: Grave 17.  
Of the 17 casualties that lie in the above cemetery, which is located equidistant of the towns of Hazebrouck and Bailleul, only one soldier has no obvious connection with the county of Kent, as 15 were members of The Buffs, and another of the fallen at rest there was a member of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, who came from Rochester, Kent.

**EDDY FINN.** Regretably no trace as he is has been commemorated on the Manston civic war memorial.

**TEDDY HOWLAND.** As he is commemorated on the Manston civic war memorial is possibly in remembrance of the following civilian local (Ramsgate) casualty:-

**HOWLAND, ERNEST.** Air Raid Warden.  
Died 24 August 1940. Aged 52.  
Born Chilton, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Son of Edward and Esther Howland.  
Husband of Margaret E. A. Howland (née Geering) of 18 Salisbury Avenue, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Ernest died at the Gas Works, Boundary Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

**STEED, REGINALD ARTHUR.** Corporal, S/1604448.  
Royal Army Service Corps.  
Died 20 June 1942. Aged 27.  
Son of Arthur Frederick and Ellen Rose Steed of Manston, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya. Grave Ref: 2. F. 23.  
Reginald is commemorated on the Manston civic war memorial as Reggie Steed.

# The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Lost Man

**COBBETT, FREDERICK WILLIAM.** Leading Aircraftman, 518544.

Royal Air Force.

Died 20 July 1945. Aged 29.

Son of Edward William and Agnes C. Cobbett.

Husband of Pearl Olive Amelia Cobbett of Manston, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

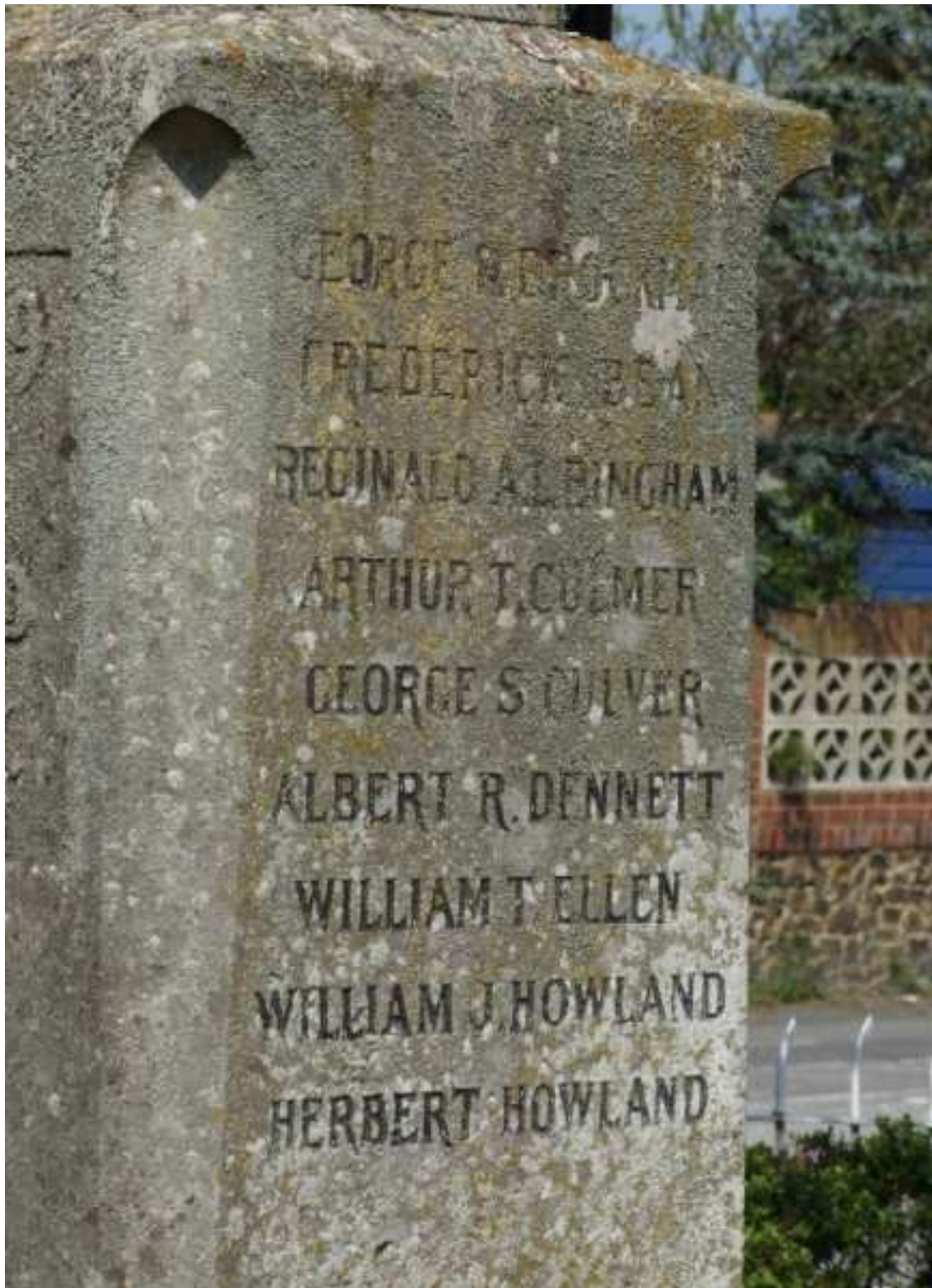
Buried Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Cemetery, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Grave Ref: St. Lawrence Division Section B. Grave 349.









GEORGE MERRICK

FREDERICK BEAN

REGINALD ALBINGHAM

ARTHUR T. COLEMER

GEORGE S. CULVER

ALBERT R. DENNETT

WILLIAM T. ELLEN

WILLIAM J. HOWLAND

HERBERT HOWLAND



