

Marsh Green



Marsh Green is a small hamlet in Eden Vale, and is located on the B2028 to the south west of the town of Edenbridge. As can be seen on the photograph above by Susan F., the parish tribute to the local men who gave their lives in the Great War is in good condition. Transcriptions are by Hannah L. Scullion.

The Great War

1914 -1919

BONWICK, WILLIAM CHARLES. Private, G/18841.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Friday 30 November 1917.

Born Dormansland, Lingfield, Surrey. Enlisted and resided Edenbridge, Kent.
Son of William and Emma Bonwick (née Bradford).

Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 3,
and on the Edenbridge civic war memorial, which is in the forms of panels at the
Edenbridge and District War Memorial Hospital. William is also commemorated
on the Edenbridge Tannery memorial plaque at the former Whitmores Tannery.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Bonwick family resided at 1, Tanners
Cottages, Dormansland Road, Lingfield, Surrey. Head of the house was 31 year
old Dormansland, Lingfield, Surrey native William Bonwick, who was employed
as a Tanyard Labourer. William (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator
as being 6 years old, which would be indicative of him having been about 22
years old when he died.

CARRUTHERS, JAMES MEIN AUSTIN. Captain.
16th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (Public Schools).
Died 26 April 1917.

Born Sanquhar, Dumfries, Scotland.

Son of Jane Isabella M. Carruthers (née Austin) of Greybury, Edenbridge, Kent,
and of the late Joseph Carruthers.

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: XVII. E. 10.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Carruthers family was residing at 21, Victoria
Road, Lambeth, London. Head of the house was 45 year old Bank Agent Joseph
Carruthers. James was recorded as being a 15 year old Student by the census
enumerator, which would be indicative of him having been 31 years old when he
died of wounds at one of the military hospitals at Etaples, Pas de Calais, France.
James enlisted in the army in August 1914, and had formerly served as
Sergeant, PS/5, 16th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, (Public Schools).
Unlike many of the other ranks in the British army during the Great War who
were subsequently commisioned, when James was gazetted as a Second
Lieutenant, he returned to serve in the Middlesex Regiment. It was as a Second
Lieutenant that James was serving when he was posted to France in December
1915. Both of James's parents were natives of Dumfries, Scotland.

COOMBER, RICHARD CHARLES. Private, L/9836.
1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 27 October 1914.

Born, enlisted and resided East Grinstead, Sussex.

Son of Edmund and Fanny Coomber of Edenbridge, Kent.

Buried Ypres Town Cemetery Extension, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. A. 51.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Coomber family resided at Cernes Farm, Lingfield, Surrey. Head of the house was 55 year old Lingfield native Edmund Coomber, who was an Own Account Farmer. At the time of the census, Richard was recorded by the census enumerator as being 8 years old, which would mean that he was about 21 years old when he died of wounds on 27 October 1914. Richard was a younger brother of the following casualty Robert Coomber. It was noted whilst briefly researching the lives and deaths of Richard and Robert; that Cernes Farm where they had resided is sometimes shown on data sources accessed as being Cernes Farm, Starborough Road, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent, it doubtless being due to it being located on the Kent/Surrey border. As a regular soldier, Richard was serving in the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) at the commencement of the Great War. Unfortunately, his service papers appear to be numbered amongst those that were destroyed during a bombing raid during the Second World War, and as such it has not been possible to find out the date when he was transferred to serve in the 2nd Battalion of the regiment. Richard was still serving in the 2nd Battalion when he was posted to serve with the British Expeditionary Force on 4 October 1914, at which time his battalion which was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel M.C. Coles, departed from Lyndhurst, Hampshire heading for Southampton. On 5 October, "A" and "B" Companies of Robert's battalion sailed from Southampton onboard the SS Cymric, and arrived at Zeebrugge, Belgium the next day. "C" and "D" Companies sailed onboard the SS Turkoman on 6 October, which docked at Zeebrugge the following day. As was the same situation, with most of the regular army British battalions serving in the British Expeditionary Force during the early stages of the Great War, both the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), were forced to make a number of locational changes as the result of engagements with the enemy. Having been transferred to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) at some point after arriving in Belgium, it has not been possible to find out when Richard had suffered the wound or wounds from which he died on 27 October 1914. On the day of his death, Richard's battalion had made a move from near Veldhoek and was at Bellewaarde Farm. Whilst it is of course possible that Richard had died on the day that he was wounded, on 23 October his battalion had at least 35 other ranks wounded. The cemetery extension where Richard is at rest, was begun in October 1914, and was much increased after the Armistice when 367 graves were brought in from small cemeteries and isolated positions east and north of Ypres, and as such it might be the case that he might have been wounded prior to the date of his death, and died of his wounds whilst receiving treatment for them at one of the many army medical units which were then based at Ypres.

COOMBER, ROBERT SARJEANT. Corporal, L/9225.

2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 31 October 1914.

Born Lingfield, Surrey. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided East Grinstead, Sussex.

Son of Edmund Coomber of Edenbridge, Kent, and of Fanny Coomber.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 11.

Aged 20 years and 9 months, Robert stated that he was employed as a Farm Labourer when he enlisted in the army for 7 years with the colours and 5 years in the reserve, on 9 January 1908. In reply to the question regarding which regiment or corps he wished to serve in, Robert had answered The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). After initially serving at The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) Regimental Depot, during which time Robert had a 'chequered' start to his army career; he was posted to the 2nd Battalion of the regiment on 14 April 1908. Robert subsequently served with the same battalion for the rest of his life, during the course of which in addition to service at home, he served at Gibraltar, Bermuda, and South Africa, where the battalion was stationed at the commencement of the Great War. On 20 February 1911, Robert was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal, and to a (paid) Lance Corporal on 1 June 1912. On 27 February 1914, Robert signed on for additional service to enable him to complete 12 years service with the colours. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 23 September 1914. Robert, like his brother Richard above, was posted to serve with the British Expeditionary Force on 4 October 1914. On 29 October 1914, the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) moved to Veldhoek, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, and then moved forward to Gheluvelt. Having arrived at Gheluvelt, the battalion was in action during the morning and occupied a number of farms to the east of the Gheluvelt-Kruisecke road. During the day the battalion was reinforced by the 1st Battalion of its regiment. Both battalions of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) suffering casualties during the fighting on 29/30 October. The following day, Robert's battalion suffered 11 fatalities, 45 wounded, and 22 posted as missing, Robert being in the latter category.

FEAST, THOMAS. Private, G/40945.

4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

Died 19 January 1918. Aged 38.

Born and resided Edenbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Son of Frederick and Ann Feast (née Seal) of Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent.

Husband of Ethel Ellen Feast (née Beard) of 33, Church Street, Edenbridge, Kent.

Buried Hooge Crater Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: II. J. 12.

Formerly Private, G/15628, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Feast family resided at Greybury Lane, Edenbridge, Kent. Head of the house was 60 year Edenbridge native Frederick Feast, who was employed as an Estate Labourer, and Thomas as an employed Gardener.

LENNING, JOSEPH. Private, G/45.

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

Died 14 October 1917.

Born Bermondsey, London. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Edenbridge, Kent.

Son of John and Frances Lenning.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.

On the memorial plaque as shown on the accompanying photograph above, it can be seen that unfortunately Joseph has been commemorated on it with his surname spelt LANNING. At the time of the 1901 census, the Lenning family resided at 12, New Place, Bermondsey, London. Head of the house was 42 year old Bermondsey native John Lenning, who was a Prudential Insurance Company Agent. Joseph was recorded by the enumerator as being 11 years old on census night, which would mean that he about 27 years old at the time of his death. Joseph was posted to France on 1 June 1915. Initially he was posted as 'Missing,' but later for official purposes the Army Council came to the conclusion that he had lost his life on 14 October 1917.

PAYNE, SYDNEY THOMAS. Lieutenant.

General List and 13th Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 6 April 1918. Aged 24.

Born Edenbridge, Kent.

Son of George and Sarah Payne of 15 Elm Cottages, Hilders Lane, Marlpit Hill, Edenbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Payne family resided at what appears to be Hillands Lettings, Edenbridge, Kent, which was probably at Shernden Lane, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent. Sydney was posted to France on 9 March 1915, whilst serving as Private, 1901, 1/20th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (Blackheath and Woolwich). Having been stationed at St. Albans, Hertfordshire, Sydney's battalion travelled by train from Harpenden to Southampton on 9 March 1915, and the following day sailed for France on the Queen Alexander, Duchess of Argyll, SS Viper, and Trafford Hall. On 10 March the four ships docked at the bustling French port of Harve, from where it marched to No.2 Rest Camp. Following his posting to France, Sydney remained in his battalion for only a short time as he was elected for officer training, and on the completion of his course he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Whilst serving in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), Sydney applied for a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps which was granted. When the Royal Air Force was formed on 1 April 1918, Sydney became one of its members; sadly he has the sad distinction of being one of the casualties suffered by the Royal Air Force. After the Great War, an application was submitted by Sydney's next of kin to be furnished with his 1915 Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal, at which time the Payne family resided at the address shown above. Although purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but after checking various data

sources, it was probably the case that Sydney lost his life as the result of an accident, as opposed to the direct result of enemy accident. Sydney was the pilot of a R.E.8 aircraft No.C4570, and there are many references in various publications along the lines of the R.E.8 being described as a “death trap” and “an incinerator of pilots,” primarily due to the way that they handled. A pilot stated that flying his R.E.8 “was more like flying a steam roller than an aeroplane.” Even members of the Air Board voiced their concerns about the suitability of the RE8, and in the Minutes of the Air Board Meeting dated Wednesday 23 May 1917, it was recorded that “though the RE8 had been made safer, it would never be as safe as the BE machine.”

POCOCK. S. No clear trace. There are 6 matching Great War casualties recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which also match those in/on Soldiers Died in the Great War. One of the casualties is the following Kent soldier who is commemorated on the Leigh, Kent civic war memorial, and who is arguably the best match for the Marsh Green commemorated casualty:-

POCOCK, SIDNEY. Serjeant, C/6451.

18th (Service) Battalion, (Arts and Crafts), King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 21 September 1917. Aged 20.

Born and resided Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent. Enlisted Croydon Surrey.

Son of Charles and Maria Pocock (née Roaf) of Charcott, Leigh, Tonbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 115 to 119 and 162A and 163A, and on the Chiddingstone Causeway, Kent civic war memorial.

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

Mention should also be made of the following local (Edenbridge) casualty, who might have been known to all and sundry in the Edenbridge area by another name, which started with the initial 'C', such as Charles etcetera:-

POCOCK, HORACE JOHN. Private, 202111.

1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment.

Died Sunday 1 July 1917. Aged 22.

Born Hever, Kent. Enlisted Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Adelaide F. Pocock of 82, Delaware Cottages, Hever Road, Edenbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 8, Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C, and on the Edenbridge civic war memorial, also on the Edenbridge tannery memorial.

Formerly Private, 6019, North Staffordshire Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census, the Pocock family resided at Pains Hill, Limpsfield, Surrey. Head of the house was Horace's father; 33 year old Chiddingstone, Kent native George Pocock, who was employed as a Farm Carter. Horace's place of birth as shown above is as recorded in/on SDGW, but the census enumerator recorded Horace as being a 5 year old native of Edenbridge, Kent.

POET, JAMES HENRY. Private, 1517.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 15 July 1916.
Born Croydon, Surrey. Enlisted and resided Edenbridge, Kent.
Buried Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: Plot 1. Row C. Grave 3.
James was posted to France on 26 July 1915.

POYNTER, ALBERT. Lance Corporal, G/7676.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 1 February 1917.
Born Edenbridge, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Son of Mr. A.E. Poynter of Prinkham, Moor Lane, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7.
Formerly Private, 1506, West Kent Yeomanry, and Private, G/7676, 8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

SEAL, BERTIE. Serjeant, 201748.
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Died 9 September 1918. Aged 22.
Son of Edward and Mary A. Seal.
Born and resided Tamworth, Warwickshire. Enlisted Alveston, Warwickshire.
Son of Sarah Seal of 69, Amington Road, Tamworth, Warwickshire.
Commemorated on the Giavera Memorial, Giavera British Cemetery, Italy.

SEYMOUR, CECIL BERNARD. Rifleman, O/148.
12th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died 25 March 1918.
Born Groombridge, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.
Resided Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent.
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panels 81 to 84.
Formerly Private, TR/10/1791, 21st Training Regiment.
Cecil's father was the local Plumber at Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent for several years.

SIBLEY, FREDERICK. Private, G/14956.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 9 April 1917.
Born Wandsworth, Surrey. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Edenbridge, Kent.
Son of Walter Sibley of 522, New Chester Road, New Ferry, Cheshire.
Buried Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery, Wancourt, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: III. I. 15.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Sibley family resided at 17, A Block, Lydford, Princetown, Devon. Head of the house was 38 year old Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire native Walter Sibley, who was employed as a Civil Guard-Prison

Service, at Dartmoor Prison. The census entry records Frederick's mother as being 28 year old Ada Sibley, who was a native of Downe, Kent. Frederick stated that he was 18 years and 126 days old, when he attested for service in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' on 8 December 1915. At the time of attesting, Frederick stated that he was employed as a Farm Labourer and that he resided at Greybury Farm, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent, and named his father Walter Sibley; of 27, Craven Street, Birkenhead, Cheshire, as being his next of kin. After being placed on the Army Reserve, Frederick was mobilized on 10 May 1916 and posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). On 13 September 1916, Frederick was posted to France as a member of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and remained in the battalion until he was killed in action.

TRINDER, CHARLES. Private, 52409.

11th (Service) Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).

Died 15 October 1917. Aged 37.

Born Betchworth, Surrey. Enlisted and resided Edenbridge, Kent.

Son of Henry and Louisa Trinder of High Street, Oxted, Surrey.

Husband of Ethel Matilda Trinder of The Wheatsheaf Inn, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 42 to 47 and 162, and on the Oxted, Surrey civic war memorial.

Formerly Private, 1965, 2/1st Huntingdonshire Cyclists Battalion. Aged 35 years and 9 months, Charles attested for service in the army on 10 December 1915, and stated that he was a Licenced Victualler residing at The Wheatsheaf Inn, Marsh Green, Edenbridge, Kent. After attesting, Charles was placed on the reserve until he was required for service. Charles had a number of 'call up' dates all of which required him to the Tonbridge, Kent, Recruiting Depot, the first of which was on 7 June 1916, which due to his profession was deferred until 14 August 1916 with a similar outcome. Finally, Charles was enrolled on 20 September 1916 and was posted to the 2/1st Huntingdonshire Cyclists Battalion. On 22 September 1917, Charles was posted to France as a member of the 11th (Service) Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), in which battalion he then remained until his death. An interesting fact arose whilst accessing Marsh Green data etcetera, it being that as the result of a Covenant which was made in the 1880's, The Wheatsheaf Inn at Marsh Green where Charles had been the Licensee, has never opened on a Sunday. It would appear that Charles had been following in his fathers footsteps, as at the time of the 1901 census the Trinder family had resided at the High Street, Oxted, Surrey. Head of the house was 48 year old Englefield, Berkshire resident Henry Trinder who was an Own Account Publican. Charles was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Chalk Pit Labourer.