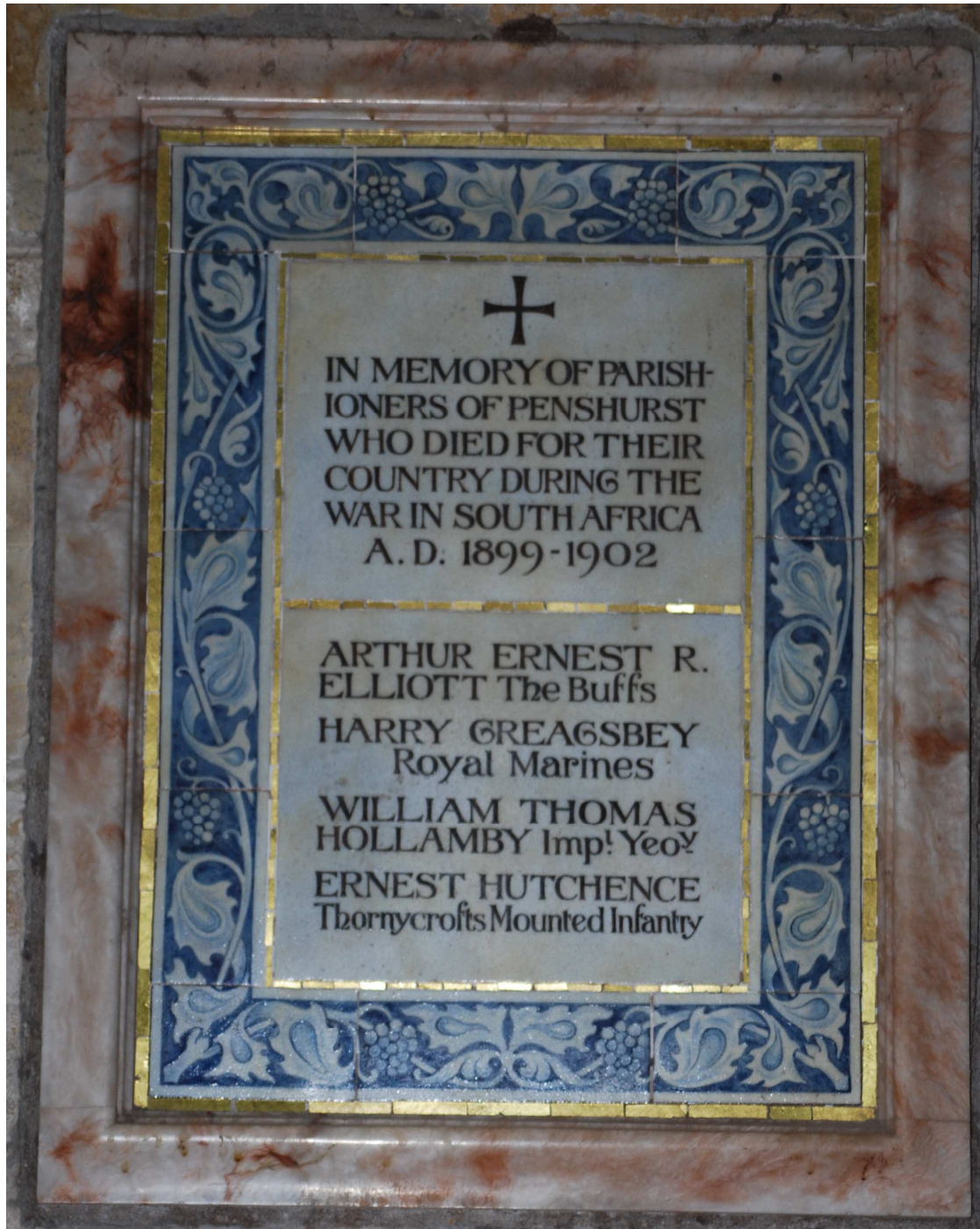


Penshurst Second Boer War



ELLIOTT, ARTHUR ERNEST RUSSELL. Corporal, 5696.

The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 24 June 1900.

Born Paddington, London. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Penshurst, Kent.

Son of Arthur and Margaret Elliott of 12, Ethelbert Gardens, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Commemorated on the Boer War Memorial, Canterbury, Kent.

Arthur enlisted as a regular soldier in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 4 August 1898. At the time of enlisting, Arthur stated that he was 19 years and 7 months old, and employed as a Clerk. He also stated that he was a serving member of the London Irish Volunteers. He was appointed a (paid) Lance Corporal on 29 March 1899, and promoted to a Corporal on 4 December 1899. He died of Enteric Fever at Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, South Africa.

GREAGSBY, HARRY.

Royal Marines.

Died 25 November 1899.

Born Lamberhurst, Kent.

Son of Henry and Ellen Greagsbey.

Harry enlisted in the Royal Marines on 8 September 1893. On 8 September 1895 Harry was awarded his first Good Conduct Badge, and awarded his second on 8 September 1899, only a few weeks prior to his death. He served on H.M.S. Victory at Portsmouth from 1 October 1895 to 5 April 1897. Between 1889 and 1904, H.M.S. Victory served as the Naval School of Telegraphy and later as the Signal School, where signals training courses were conducted. From 15 June 1897 until 4 August 1897, Harry served on H.M.S. Terrible. From 17 August 1897 until his death, Harry served on H.M.S. Powerful which was commanded by Captain Hedworth Lambton (1856-1929), who later became Admiral of the Fleet Sir Hedworth Meux G.C.B. K.C.V.O. Famous for bringing help to the British forces during the Siege of Ladysmith; Sir Hedworth became an Admiral of the Fleet during the Great War. Shortly before he was killed during the Battle of Graspan, Harry had been in a force of 150 Royal Marines and 50 Royal Navy personnel with four 12-pounder guns were reorganised and moved to relieve the beleaguered army forces in the town of Kimberley as part of Lord Methuen's relief column. The Naval Brigade in which Harry served, played a supporting role in the Battle of Belmont, but a few days later on 25 November 1899 the Royal Marines were able to show their worth at the Battle of Graspan. After bombardment from the Boer forces, the Royal Marines and Seamen of the Naval Brigade advanced with the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry over a large veldt offering no cover towards the Boers hidden in the small hills, or kopjes. Advancing over open ground made them a very easy target for the Boer sharpshooters, and during the battle Boers managed to kill the Brigade Commander and wound his Second in Command, who were both Royal Naval officers. The Naval Brigade incurred high losses during the Battle of Graspan as there were 102 casualties, 86 of them being Royal Marines. The battle of Graspan was also known as Enslin, and Rooilaagate.

HOLLAMBY, WILLIAM THOMAS. Private, 16458.

69th Sussex Company, 14th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry.

Died 19 October 1900.

Born Penshurst, Kent. Resided Fordcombe, Kent.

Son of William and Mary Jane Hollamby.

Commemorated on the 69th Sussex Company, Imperial Yeomanry Memorial, which is located in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Battle, Sussex.

William died at Pretoria, South Africa. The 69th Sussex Company, Imperial Yeomanry was raised at Eastbourne, Sussex in February 1900 for service in South Africa.

HUTCHENCE, ERNEST. Trooper, 1236.

Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry.

Died Wednesday 24 January 1900.

Born Penshurst, Kent.

Son of David Hill Hutchence and Charlotte Hutchence.

Ernest was killed in action (found dead) at Spion Kop (Spioenkop). Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry in which Ernest served was raised at Pietermaritzburg on 16 October 1899 by Major A.W. Thorneycroft of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and was comprised of 500 mixed personnel. They arrived at Mooi River on 18 November 1899, and fought with the relief force at the battles of Willow Grange, and Spion Cop Spioenkop, where it suffered 122 casualties out of 194 men. On the evening of Tuesday 23 January 1900, 1,700 British troops prepared to attack a hill known as Spionkop, on the Tugela River in Northern Natal. Spioenkop means 'Spy Hill' and was coined by the Dutch settlers due to the commanding views it afforded. The following days witnessed a bloody battle between troops of the British Empire and the Boers. The bulk of the British soldiers were from the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Lancaster Regiment and the 1st Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment. Capturing Spionkop meant that the British Army could relieve their fellow countrymen who were besieged by the Boers in the Natal town of Ladysmith. As the roasting hot first day of the battle came to a close, Lieutenant General Sir Charles Warren began to organise reliefs and supplies for the hard pressed infantry on the summit of Spion Kop. Still under artillery fire Thorneycroft and his men were at the end of their tether. Warren had sent Thorneycroft no orders of any sort during the day, other than his appointment in command, and he now sent no message to inform Thorneycroft that substantial reinforcements were on their way, but it was not until 2100 hours that the reliefs began to climb the hill. Throughout the second day of the battle, Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry had displayed great courage and had met with some successes. British army reports at the end of the battle, which raged for two days stated that there had been 332 killed, 563 wounded and 163 taken prisoner by the Boers, but the above figures are still open to question, with some claiming the number of officers and other ranks who were wounded had been approximately 1000.