

Reculver



Information which we have obtained locally from a gentleman, who lives near Reculver, would tend to indicate that the Reculver civic war memorial as shown above, was not erected until a year or so after the Second World War. It was paid for by public subscription by the residents of the adjoining parishes of Reculver, Beltinge, and Hillborough. When viewing the overall design of the granite memorial, it would appear that our informant is correct, as the two panels commemorating the casualties of both world wars are a perfect fit. In December 1919 a memorial plaque was unveiled and dedicated in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Reculver, to commemorate 18 men who were connected to the village or the church that had lost their lives during the Great War. The memorial plaque in the church was set out with the names of 6 Royal Navy (Senior Service) casualties, before the names of 12 soldiers, and when the civic war memorial was erected, the same format was used to commemorate the Great War deaths. As Beltinge, and Hillborough men are commemorated in the church and on the civic war memorial, we have included men from these parishes as 'Lost Men' below if not commemorated at Reculver. Thanks are due to Faversham resident Leigh M. Hogben, for providing us with the Reculver war memorial and war grave photographs for inclusion here. The transcriptions are by Patrick D. Scullion.

The Great War

1914 -1919
Royal Navy



FOAD, WILLIAM JOHN. Chief Stoker, 283150.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Formidable.

Died 1 January 1915. Aged 38.

Born Swalecliffe, Kent 27 June 1876.

Son of William and Susannah Foad (née Thunder) of Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent.

Husband of Mary Ann Foad of White Cottages, Marshside, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11, as shown above and in the parish church of St. Mary, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

William was an elder brother of Frederick Alfred Foad who is the next Royal Navy casualty briefly commemorated below. The parents of the Foad brothers; William Foad and Susannah Thunder married at Herne, Kent, on 8 September 1867. At the time of the 1901 census, William's parents, brother Frederick, and another brother Stephen C. Foad (1881-1959) resided at Reculver. Head of the house was 62 year old William Foad (senior), who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. The 15,000 ton battleship H.M.S. Formidable was launched at Portsmouth on 17 November 1898, and served in the Mediterranean Fleet until April 1908, when she was transferred to the Channel Fleet. In 1912 she formed part of the 5th Battle Squadron, which consisted of eight battleships and two cruisers, and she was serving with this squadron at the commencement of the Great War. H.M.S. Formidable departed from Sheerness, Kent, on Wednesday 30 December 1914 to take part in a firing exercise off coast of Portland, Dorset. At 0200 hours on Friday 1 January 1915, H.M.S. Formidable was hit by two torpedoes fired from the German submarine U-24, which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Rudolf Schneider who was in command from 1 August 1914 to 3 June 1916. The first torpedo hit the number one boiler port side; a second explosion caused the ship to list heavily to starboard. Huge waves thirty feet high lashed the stricken ship, with strong winds, rain and hail, sinking it in less than two hours, approximately 20 miles off Start Point. Various data checked show a variance in the actual numbers who survived the sinking, but it appears to be about 200 from her complement of 780. The U-24 has the dubious distinction of being the very first u-boat to attack an unarmed merchant ship without warning, it being the SS Admiral Ganteaume, which after being torpedoed stayed afloat, and was later safely towed to port. U-24 survived the Great War and surrendered to the allied powers at the end of the Great War, and was eventually broken up at Swansea, South Wales in 1922.



FOAD, FREDERICK ALFRED. Stoker 1st Class, 305357.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Foxhound.

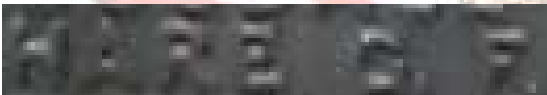
Died 6 September 1915. Aged 30.

Born Hampton, Herne Bay, Kent 19 November 1884.

Son of William and Susannah Foad of Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 11, as shown above and in the parish church of St. Mary, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

H.M.S. Foxhound on which Frederick served was launched in 1909, and sold for scrap in 1921. It would seem likely that Frederick's death was not as the result of enemy action. Buried at sea, Frederick probably died of an illness or an accident.



HARE, GREVILLE FRANCIS. Petty Officer, 233912.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Natal.

Died 30 December 1915. Aged 26.

Born Paddington, London 11 July 1889.

Brother of Winifred Ethel Hare of Hawthorne Grange, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 9, as shown above and in the parish church of St. Mary, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

H.M.S. Natal was a Royal Navy 13,550 ton Warrior class armoured cruiser which was commissioned in 1907. She was at anchor in the Cromarty Firth when she quite literally exploded at about 1520 hours on the afternoon of 30 December 1915. A series of violent internal explosions tore through the ship, and within five minutes she capsized a blazing wreck. At the time of her loss, the ships commander Captain, Eric P.C. Back R.N., and his wife were hosting a party onboard the ship, which included nurses, civilians and children, all of whom were among the 388 who lost their lives when the ship blew-up. Those bodies which were recovered from the sea were interred in Rosskeen Churchyard Extensions, (or Burial Ground) Invergordon, Ross-shire, Scotland, and are included amongst the 150 Commonwealth burials from both world wars at rest at Rosskeen. Following the loss of H.M.S. Natal an Admiralty Board of Enquiry was convened; the official result from same was that the explosion onboard H.M.S. Natal was due to the deterioration of cordite in the ships magazine. For many years following the tragedy there was a story circulating in many quarters about the ship having been sabotaged. This apparently was based on 'the fact' that the Dreadnought battleship H.M.S. Vanguard had also exploded mysteriously after being visited by a particular Ordnance Chargehand, who also went into the magazine of H.M.S. Natal just before she too exploded and sank. The man in question is reputed to have then disappeared without trace; an obvious explanation accounting for his disappearance was that he too was lost when H.M.S. Natal exploded. For comprehensive details about the ship, probably the best book to consult is "They Called It Accident" by A. Cecil Hampshire which tells the story of H.M.S Natal from when she was launched until her tragic loss.



SMITH, SYDNEY RICHARD. Chief Yeoman of Signals, 194682.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Formidable.

Died 1 January 1915. Aged 33.

Born Herne, Kent 19 November 1881.

Son of Richard and Emma Smith of Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 10, as shown above and on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, Sydney was serving as a Royal Navy, Qualified Signaller onboard the 6,820 ton torpedo boat depot ship H.M.S. Vulcan, which was in port at the Grand Harbour, Valletta, Malta. Richard's family at the time of the above census, resided at The Stores, (adjacent to Bay Tree House) Reculver Road, Herne Bay, Kent. Head of the house was 49 year old Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent native Richard Smith, who was an Own Account Cab Proprietor. When viewing the census entries, it would appear that Sydney's family members were both industrious and enterprising, as the 1901 census entry shows that his mother and two of his sisters were recorded by the enumerator as being Own Account Laundresses, and his brother 22 year old brother Ernest, was an Own Account General Carter. The 15,000 ton battleship H.M.S. Formidable, on which Sydney was serving when he lost his life, was launched at Portsmouth on 17 November 1898, and served in the Mediterranean Fleet until April 1908, when she was transferred to the Channel Fleet. In 1912 she formed part of the 5th Battle Squadron, which consisted of eight battleships and two cruisers, and she was serving with this squadron at the commencement of the Great War. H.M.S. Formidable departed from Sheerness, Kent, on Wednesday 30 December 1914 to take part in a firing exercise off coast of Portland, Dorsetshire. At 0200 hours on Friday 1 January 1915, H.M.S. Formidable was hit by two torpedoes fired from the German submarine U-24, which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Rudolf Schneider who was in command of the U-24 from 1 August 1914 to 3 June 1916. The attack sinking of H.M.S. Formidable was the first underwater attack at night, when the first torpedo hit the number one boiler port side; a second explosion caused the ship to list heavily to starboard. The combination of huge waves thirty feet high lashing the stricken ship, with strong winds, rain and hail, resulted in H.M.S. Formidable sinking in less than two hours, at which time she was approximately 20 miles off Start Point, Dorsetshire. Various data checked show a variance in the actual numbers who survived the sinking, but it appears to be about 200 from her complement of 780. The U-24 has the dubious distinction of being the very first u-boat to attack an unarmed merchant ship without warning; it being the SS Admiral Ganteaume, after being torpedoed the SS Admiral Ganteaume stayed afloat, and was later safely towed to port. U-24 survived the Great War and surrendered to the allied powers at the end of the Great War, and was eventually broken up at Swansea, South Wales in 1922. On 13 October 1917, during very stormy weather, Rudolf Schneider then aged 35, was lost overboard from the conning tower of the German submarine U-87.



SOWDEN, JOHN FRANCIS. Petty Officer 1st Class, 179204.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vanguard.

Died Monday 9 July 1917. Aged 39.

Born Landrick, Cornwall 1 May 1878.

Son of William and Jane Sowden.

Husband of Edith Sowden (née Judd) of "Phyllis Bungalow," Osborne Gardens, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 21, as shown above.

Unfortunately, as can be seen on the accompanying photographs, John is erroneously commemorated on the Reculver civic war memorial with his surname spelt SOUDEN. At the time of the 1901 census, John was serving as an Able Seaman onboard the naval gunnery ship H.M.S. Cambridge, which was the renamed H.M.S. Windsor Castle that was permanently located off Portsmouth. H.M.S. Cambridge had H.M.S. Calcutta as her tender, with a wooden bridge between the bow of H.M.S. Cambridge and the stern of H.M.S. Calcutta. A survivor from the 'Battle of Jutland' in which she was part of the Forth Battle Squadron, H.M.S. Vanguard, on which John was serving at the time of his death was a 19,560 ton St.Vincent class battleship, that was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Alan C.H. Duke R.N, when she blew up and sank to the north of the Golta Peninsula in Flotta, Scapa Flow at approximately 2320 hours on Monday 9 July 1917 with the loss of 843 lives. She went down as the result of a magazine explosion in one of the two magazines which served the 'P' and 'Q' turrets amidships. Following her loss an Admiralty Court of Enquiry was convened, with three possible causes tendered, they being: - (1) A spontaneous detonation of cordite, which had become unstable. (2) The cordite having caught fire from heating in an adjacent compartment. (3) Sabotage. To their credit Brian Budge from Kirkwall, and fellow enthusiast, Jonathan Saunders from Gillingham, Kent have carried out extensive research over a number of years into the loss of Robert's ship, and it is as the result of their findings that the actual death toll and following information has been ascertained. The vast majority of those lost with H.M.S. Vanguard numbering 622, are commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Although no formal cause for the cordite explosion was ever found by the Court of Inquiry, the most likely explanation is that a fire in a coal bunker or other neighbouring area simply smoldered away undetected long enough to heat the cordite stored at an adjoining bulkhead to dangerous levels, which eventually triggered an explosive reaction. Although dwarfed by the losses such as the S.S. Lancastria off the coast of France in the Second World War, the loss of H.M.S. Vanguard remains Britain's worst disaster in Home Waters. The wreck-site of the ship is now thankfully designated as a controlled site under the Protection of Military Remains Act.



STEED, WILLIAM JAMES. Stoker 1st Class, K/28824.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Inflexible.

Died 3 September 1917. Aged 20.

Born Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent 3 August 1897.

Son of Mrs. Edith Emily Steed (née West) of 2, Hillborough Cottages, Reculver, Herne Bay, Kent, and the late Gilbert Edward Steed.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, Reculver, Kent. Grave Ref: In South West Corner.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Steed family resided at May Street, Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent. Head of the house was 27 year old Maypole, Hoath, Canterbury, Kent native Gilbert E. Steed, who was employed as a Railway Platelayer. William was not serving on his former ship, the 20,700 ton Invincible class battlecruiser H.M.S. Inflexible, when he died of wounds which he suffered during an attack by German Gotha bombers on H.M.S. Pembroke, the Chatham, Kent, Royal Naval Barracks, on the night of 3/4 September 1917. There is a large naval section in Gillingham (Woodlands) Cemetery which was reserved by the Admiralty and served the Royal Naval Hospital in Windmill Road. The section contains most of the war graves as well as burials of the pre-war and inter-war years. Among the Great War burials in the naval section are 64 casualties who died on the night of 3/4 September 1917 at H.M.S. Pembroke. A number of the casualties who died in or resultant of the Gotha bomber raid, whose bodies were claimed by their families, were buried in their home towns or villages, one of which was that of William.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Army

NICOLAY, HERBERT CLELAND. Major.

1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

Died 10 March 1915. Aged 38.

Born Kansati, India 5 September 1875.

Youngest son of the late Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Frederick William Nicolay, and of Florence Amelia Nicolay (née Greenslade) of Rose Hill, Bideford, Devon.

Husband of Elizabeth Nicolay (née Hanby).

Commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 18, and on the Northam, Devon civic war memorial, Herbert's name is also recorded in the Book of Remembrance, which is kept in the parish church of St. Margaret, Northam, Devon.

Herbert was educated at the United Services Proprietary College, Westward Ho, Devon. The costly 'Battle of Neuve Chapelle' was fought between 10 March 1915 and 22 April 1915. The night before the attack was wet, with light snow, which then turned to damp mist on 10 March. Herbert fell on the first day of the battle during the attack behind the enemy lines on the huge Bois De Biez, which was a wood on flat ground that contained several small drainage ditches. One of the legends from the Great War is that on the same day that Herbert was killed, a company of Gurkhas disappeared into the wood never to be seen again.

BENNETT, ARTHUR. Bombardier, 56230.

35th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 21 April 1918. Aged 40.

Born Desford, Leicester, Leicestershire. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of the late William and Anna Bennett of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire.

Husband of Ellen Bennett.

Buried Louvencourt Military Cemetery, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: Plot 1. Row D. Grave 33.

Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, Arthur was recorded by the enumerator as being the head of the house at Reynolds Farm, Marshside, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent. From July 1915 to August 1916, Field Ambulances were established at the village of Louvencourt, which was approximately 6 miles behind the front line during the first day of the 'Battle of the Somme' on 1 July 1916. Following the 1916 Somme offensive, these medical units moved further east, and the cemetery where Arthur is at rest was little used until the German advances of April 1918, pushed the Allied line back to its old position. The graves of 1918 which are in rows D and E, relate to the climax of the spring of 1918 fighting and as can be seen above, one of those graves is that of Arthur.

FIELDER, HAROLD THOMAS. Private, G/5824.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 15 September 1916. Aged 19.

Born Sittingbourne, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Louisa Fielder of 3, New Cottages, Adisham, Canterbury, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D.

Unfortunately, as can be seen on the accompanying photographs, Harold is erroneously commemorated on the Reculver civic war memorial with the year of his death shown as having occurred in 1915. All data sources checked show the date 15 September 1916. At the time of the 1901 census, the Fielder family resided at Chestnut Street, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent. Head of the house was 27 year old Wrotham, Kent native Thomas Fielder, who was employed as a Police Constable. The British objective for 15 September 1916 was a line stretching between the Somme villages of Gueudecourt, Flers, Lesboeufs, and Morval, with the XIV Corps (Guards and 6th Division) detailed to capture the two latter locations. Harold's battalion was engaged in the major action at Morval, with the battalion moving forward from the frontline trenches and attacked a heavily fortified enemy redoubt known as the Quadrilateral which was located on the edge of Bouteaux Wood. It was also the first occasion that tanks were employed, but as far as the 6th Division was concerned their use was a failure, for of the three tanks that were allotted to the division, two broke down before starting, and the third, moving off in accordance with orders long before the infantry, had its periscope shot off, its peep-holes blinded, after being literally riddled by armour piercing bullets, and had to come back without achieving anything. To facilitate the movement of the tanks a gap of approximately 200 yards had been left in the artillery creeping barrage. Unfortunately the gap coincided with the strongest point of the Quadrilateral. Adding to the problems faced by the assaulting infantry was that the artillery barrage had passed over the German trenches by the time the infantry advanced. The 1st Battalion was tasked with supporting both the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedford Regiment, that had one company bombing up the trench from Leuze Wood, and the remainder over the open to the north against the south-west face, and also the 2nd Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. The leading formation started its advance to attack up the muddy slippery slopes at 0620 hours without any artillery support except for the already referred to bombardment, but both of the leading battalions were soon checked by heavy enemy machine gun fire. The 1st Battalion began its advance fifteen minutes after the two leading battalions, but they also quickly became inflamed by enemy machine gun fire, with most being pinned down in shell holes, and suffered substantial casualties. 6 officers and 53 other ranks were killed and an additional 190 men were wounded, their casualties being the highest of those which took part in the attack. Under the cover of darkness during the night the battalion withdrew to a trench running south east to Guillemont. Harold is numbered amongst the 532 names of soldiers of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) inscribed upon the Thiepval Memorial.

HARCOURT, ARTHUR WELLESLEY. Private, S/307519.

Reserve Siege Park Depot, Army Service Corps.

Died 18 April 1917. Aged 21.

Born Hanwell, Middlesex. Enlisted and resided Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of Eliza Harcourt of Princess Street, Pukekohe, Auckland, New Zealand, and the late Charles Horace Harcourt.

Buried Locksbrook Cemetery, Upper Bristol Road, Bath, Somerset.

Grave Ref: Q. Y. 2363.

At the time of the 1891 census, the Harcourt family resided at "Lyndhurst," Hanwell, Middlesex. Head of the house was 47 year old Wokingham, Berkshire native Charles Horace Harcourt who was employed as a Bankers Clerk. Arthur's father died in 1900, and at the time of the 1901 census Arthur's 47 year old widowed mother; Eliza Harcourt who was a native of Monk Sherbourne, Tadley, Hampshire, was recorded by the census enumerator as being the head of the house, at 9, New Pier Street, Walton On The Naze, Essex, and as living on her own means. Arthur's enlisted in the army on 2 March 1916, and placed on the reserve. He was called up for military service on 8 March 1917 at which time he stated that he was 21 years and 263 days old, and that he was employed as a Surveyors Assistant, residing at Reculver Hatch, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent, which was the address of his parents. Arthur had been employed by the Blean Rural District Council, and prior to his enlistment the Surveyor who Arthur assisted; Francis A. Ward M.I. Mun. E. had furnished the army with what can best be described as a glowing testimonial. Although at the time of his initial army medical he was assessed as being fit for Garrison Service abroad, after being posted to the Reserve Siege Park Depot, Army Service Corps at Bath, Somerset, Arthur was classified as B1 medical category. On 12 March 1917, Arthur took a Trade Proficiency Test for a Clerk which showed him to be "Over Fair" overall, with nil shorthand skills, but with a slight knowledge of typing. On 1 April 1917, Arthur was admitted as patient at the Bath War Hospital, Coombe Park, Bath, Somerset, suffering from Double Pneumonia. Despite the best efforts of the medical staff, Arthur died at the hospital at 1515 hours on 18 April 1917. During a period of correspondence in January 1918, between the War Office and Arthur's mother who was his next of kin, her home address was at West End House, Mortimer Common, Reading, Berkshire. The following year (1919) the Harcourt family home was at 2, Hillside, Mortimer Reading, Berkshire, which is where his mother was still residing when she was sent the Memorial Scroll in remembrance of her late son. One of Arthur's brothers; Horace Charles Harcourt also served in the Army Service Corps during the Great War as Driver, M/274480. At the time of him enlisting at the Central London recruiting Depot, Whitehall, on 11 December 1916, Horace's address was Steyne Nurseries, Worthing, Sussex. Horace was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 16 May 1917, and to the Royal Defence Corps on 29 July 1917. Having attained the rank of Sergeant, Horace was discharged from the army and placed on the Z Reserve on 5 December 1919, at which time his home address was 31, Queen Annes Grove, Bedford Row, London, W.



HEATHER, HUGH BERTRAM. Private, 51198.
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment).
Died 21 March 1918. Aged 32.
Born Hampton, Middlesex 15 March 1886.
Son of the Reverend George Frederick Heather and Mrs. Emily Clare Heather (née Willins) of "Sunnymead," Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.
Buried Voormezeele Enclosure No.3, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: III. G. 6.
Commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial, and on page 18 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.
Hugh was baptised in the parish church of St Mary, Hampton, Richmond upon Thames, Middlesex, on 2 June 1886, at which time his father was a Clerk in Holy Orders, and Grammar School Head Master. At the time of the 1901 census, the Heather family resided at the hamlet of Tillington, Petworth, Sussex. Head of the house was 65 year old Church of England Clergyman, the Reverend George Frederick Heather who was a native of Southsea, Hampshire. Hugh emigrated to Canada in 1903, and at the time of the 1906 Canadian census he resided in Manitoba. By the time that the 1911 Canadian census was carried out, Hugh was recorded as being a Farmer residing at Regina, Saskatchewan. Hugh made a return visit to Great Britain, arriving at Liverpool on the Furness Line ship "Empress of Britain" on 16 January 1914, the ship having departed from St John's, Newfoundland. Hugh later returned to Canada, and enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada on 23 December 1914, stating that he was a Farmer, unmarried and naming his mother Emily Clare Heather as his next of kin, at which time she resided at "Westview," Osbourne Gardens, Herne Bay, Kent. Headstone photograph courtesy of I. Rix.

PRETT, FRANK HAROLD. Private, G/8954.

8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 23 July 1917. Aged 26.

Born Marshside, Chislet, Kent. Enlisted Herne Bay, Kent. Resided Reculver, Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of William Durtnall Prett and Emma Susannah Prett (née Addley) of 3, Whitehill Road, Crayford, Dartford, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 13.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Prett family resided at Mill Cottage, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 53 year old Reculver native William Durtnall Prett, who was employed as Mill Carter. Frank was one of the three other ranks in his battalion that were killed in action on 23 July 1917. Frank's battalion, having enjoyed a long rest which had included time spent at Escoeuilles for two weeks, followed by a move to the seaside location of Ecault to the south of Boulogne-sur-Mer, during which time members of the battalion had made forays into Boulogne-sur-Mer, on 16 July 1917 the battalion commenced a week long march to Mic Mac Camp in Belgium, which was a hatted camp that was located between Dickebusch and Ouderdom. On 22 July the battalion commenced trench work, prior to the commencement of its involvement in the 'Battle of Pilckem Ridge' as part of the Third Battle of Ypres. Although the initial tour of the new trench positions was of only six days duration, it resulted in approximately 160 casualties in the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

READ, ERNEST. Private, G/2645.

8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died Monday 17 July 1917. Aged 20.

Born Herne Bay, Kent. Enlisted and resided Chislet, Kent.

Son of Albert Ernest Read and Mary Jane Read of "Sea View Bungalow," Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

Buried Wulverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. D. 26.

Commemorated on Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Read family resided at Marshside, Chislet, Kent. Head of the house was 61 year old Monkton, Kent native Albert Ernest Read, who was recorded by the enumerator as being employed as a Shepherd in the Marshes. Unfortunately the exact location of the residence of the Read family was entered on the census, but judging by other entries it was probably located near to the Hog & Donkey Public House at Marshside. In his sixty fourth year at the time, Colonel Frederick Charles Romer, C.B., C.M.G., was offered the choice of raising one of the regiments three specified Service Battalions, and chose to form the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). The battalion was formed at Canterbury, Kent, on Saturday 12 September 1914 as part of the Third New Army, the nucleus of the battalion being men who were excess to the numerical requirements of the 6th and 7th (Service) Battalions of The Buffs (East

Kent Regiment). Colonel Romer was the Honourable Secretary of Boodles Club, as were Major's A. Crawley, and Dansey, Captain's Hare, W. Howard, W.D. Johnson, and Lieutenant Sir William Cooke, all of whom were fellow members of Boodles, who joined Colonel Romer in the new battalion, as did two of the club waiters. The battalion moved to Shoreham, Sussex as part of 72nd Brigade, 24th Division, where two important members of the initial battalion joined Colonel Romer and his officers, they being Captain E.C. Norman who was to serve as the Adjutant, and Regimental Serjeant Major A. Barton. In December 1914 the battalion moved to billets at Worthing, Sussex, before returning to Shoreham in April 1915. In June 1915 the battalion went to Aisne Barracks at Blackdown, near Aldershot, Hampshire, where an intense period of divisional training was undertaken during July and August 1915, the culmination of which was a review which was carried out by Lord Kitchener, in addition to which was a week that was spent digging trenches at Chobham. During a visit to the Aldershot Garrison in August by H.M. The King, the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) had the honour of providing the Guard of Honour on that occasion. The battalion landed at the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France on Wednesday 1 September 1915, and was transferred to the 17th Brigade, 24th Division, on Monday 18 October 1915. It has unfortunately not been possible to add any additional information appertaining to Ernest's death, which is recorded in/on SDGW as killed in action, suffice to say that his was one of three other ranks deaths suffered by the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Monday 17 July 1916, which was just over a week before the battalion left Belgium and going to France to take part in the 'Battle of the Somme 1916.'

RUSSELL, LEONARD GEORGE. Sapper, 228537.

Inland Water Transport, Royal Engineers.

Died 17 February 1917. Aged 42.

Born Beckenham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Henrietta Russell of 59, High Street, Beckenham, Kent, and of the late Charles H. Russell.

Husband of Emily Russell (née Sayer) of Glen Croft, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Buried Herne Bay Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: T. 85.

Leonard married Miss Emily Russell Sayer at Herne, Kent on 26 June 1899. At the time of the 1901 census, Leonard was recorded by the enumerator as being the head of house, whilst residing at Glencroft, Bishopstone, Reculver, with his 22 year old wife Emily who was a native of Reculver, and his son. Leonard was still residing at the same address when he enlisted in the army on 4 January 1917, at which time he stated that he was 40 years and 326 days old, and employed as a Bricklayer. In reply to being questioned about any former military service, Leonard stated that he had been discharged from the 2nd (Kent) Volunteers, Royal Artillery in 1896; he also stated that he preferred to serve in the Inland Water Transport, Royal Engineers. Leonard was taken from Richborough, Kent, to the Herne Bay Military Hospital, where he died of Cerebro-Spinal Fever at 1620 hours on 17 February 1917 with his wife by his bedside.

SPRATT, SIDNEY CHARLIE JAMES. Private, DM2/228350.

717th Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps, attached to the 279th Siege Brigade Ammunition Column, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Died 28 June 1917.

Born Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Reculver, Herne Bay, Kent.

Husband of Mary Ann Spratt (née Trickey) of "Sea View House," Reculver, Kent.

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: XIV. C. 9A.

Sidney married Miss Mary Ann Trickey at St. Pauls Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on 1 June 1911. At the time of enlisting in the army 'For the Duration of the War,' on 9 October 1916, Sidney stated that he was aged 35 years and 58 days, and was employed as a Traction Engine Driver, residing at "Sea View House," Reculver.

WILLIAMS, GEORGE HARRISON. Company Serjeant Major, 50991.

19th (Service) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment), (3rd City).

Died 29 April 1918. Aged 29.

Born and resided Liverpool, Lancashire. Enlisted Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Mary Ann Williams of 28, Brookland Road, Liverpool, Lancashire.

Husband of Kathleen Grace Williams of Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Buried Voormezele Enclosure No.3, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: XIV. B. 2.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Williams family resided at 61, Moscow Drive, West Derby, Liverpool, Lancashire. Head of the house was 49 year old Liverpool, Lancashire native Thomas Williams, who was a Railway Goods Agent.

RICHES, HAROLD GEORGE. Private, 406796.

1st Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario Regiment).

Died 14 June 1916. Aged 26.

Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. (Please see below).

Son of Frederick John H. Riches and Mary Ann Riches (née Faircloth) of 36, Cuxton Road, Strood, Kent.

Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: VIII. B. 94.

Commemorated on page 154 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

When Harold was asked where he was born and his date of birth, at the time of his enlistment at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on 19 April 1915, he stated that he was born in County Cork, Ireland on 24 October 1890. Harold also stated that he was unmarried, employed as a Policeman, and named his mother Mary Ann Riches of Coastguard Cottages, Reculver, Kent as his next of kin. All data checked tend to indicate that like his father, Harold too was a native of Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and not of County Cork, Ireland as he had stated at the time of his enlistment at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

SCRUBY, NORMAN COLLARD. M.M. Sergeant, 12282.

4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

Died 27 April 1921. Aged 34.

Born Rayne, Braintree, Essex.

Son of Henry Thomas Scruby and Ada Scruby (née Collard).

Buried St. James's Churchyard, St. James's Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, TW12 1DQ. Grave Ref: Area D. 13D 3.

Norman was born at Rayne, Braintree, Essex in September 1885. At the time of the 1901 census, the Scruby family was residing at Hall Farm, Rayne, Braintree, Essex. Head of the family was 48 year old Little Easton, Essex, native Henry Thomas Scruby, who was a Farmer and an employer. In addition to Norman's parents, his 14 year old brother Sydney and 12 year old brother Noel were at home on the night of the census but Norman was absent. The transcriber of these brief commemorations has not found an entry for Norman on the 1901 census. Norman was posted to France on 30 July 1915, at which time he was a Private serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. He was later transferred to serve in the 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. The War Diary entry of the latter battalion dated 19 November 1917, notes the award of the Military Medal to six members of the battalion, one of whom was Norman. Norman's parents' marriage was registered in the Blean, Kent registration district during the second quarter of 1880; they are buried together in the churchyard of All Saints parish church, Rayne, Braintree, Essex. Regretably, at the time of adding the Reculver victims of war on this website, Norman is numbered amongst the thousands of Commonwealth casualties who died in or resultant of both world wars, which are still not officially commemorated by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission. Having already ascertained that Norman's death was registered in the Lambeth, London registration district during the second quarter of 1921, and that the cut off date for the commemorations of Great War related deaths by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is 31 August 1921, as he is named on the Reculver civic war memorial we made further enquiries about Norman, including purchasing a copy of Norman's death certificate, which shows his causes of death as being:-

- (1) Chronic Osteomyelitis of femur, result of Gunshot Wound received in action.
- (2) Myocardial Failure.

Norman died at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Ruskin Park, Brixton, London, SE5, at which time he was a resident of Reculver, Kent. His death certificate shows that he employed as an Wholesale Drapers Warehouseman, Ex Army. The informant of Norman's death was his oldest brother; Ralph Brook C. Scruby of "The Moorings," James Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex. Present of the time of Norman's death, Ralph Scruby, who had served in the Royal Navy during the Great War. Norman was buried at St. James's Churchyard, Hampton Hill on 3 May 1921. Having now obtained irrefutable proof that Norman died as the result of wounds received in action during the Great War, www.kentfallen.com has now submitting his case to the C.W.G.C. to enable him to be at long last officially commemorated as a casualty of the Great War. It was good to see that Norman's grave is near to the war memorial in St. James's Churchyard, Hampton Hill.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Men

ANDREWS, Private, HORACE, L/9350.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

Died 18 October 1914. Aged 22.

Born Tyler Hill, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Reculver, Herne Bay, Kent.

Son of John and Evrel Andrews of Hillborough Farm, Reculver, Herne Bay, Kent. Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2.

Horace was amongst the 24 other ranks serving in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who died on 18 October 1914. Following the fall of the city of Antwerp on 9 October 1914, it allowed for the release of a vast amount of German troops, and depending on what publication is read, the actual numbers of soldiers that then became available for duty elsewhere vary wildly. Despite generally accepted as containing numerous errors, the book by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B., detailing the regiments' contribution during the Great War, put the above number as 90,000, Colonel Moody also make mention that in addition to those enemy soldiers, four German Army Corps had also been brought from the Eastern Front to fight on the Western Front. With the mass of additional manpower available to the German High Command, the British and French troops the enemy from post the fall of Antwerp were vastly outnumbered. On 12 October 1914 the 1st Battalion was relieved in their trenches on the Aisne by French troops, and marched to the little village of Bazoches-sur-Vesles along with the 16th Brigade of the 6th Division to which the battalion belonged, and entrained from Bazoches-sur-Vesles to Cassel where they arrived the following day. The following is an extract from the book 'A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March 1919,' by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. "The 16th Infantry Brigade now rejoined the Division from the Aisne, and on the 18th October a reconnaissance in force was ordered, which was brilliantly carried out. The Buffs and Y. and L. on the right captured Radinghem without much opposition, and advanced across a small plateau, 300 yards in width, towards the woods in which stands the Château de Flandres. They here came under a heavy cross-fire of machine-guns and shrapnel, and were counter-attacked and driven back. The situation, however, was saved by Major Bayley's company of the Y. and L., which had worked round on the left and threatened the flank of the counter-attack, which thereon withdrew. The Y. and L. suffered considerable casualties in this little action--Major Robertson being killed. Meanwhile the 18th Infantry Brigade had captured Ennetières and the south end of Capinghem, while the 17th Infantry Brigade reached Prêmesques, but was unable to take Pérenchies. The 4th Division had not been able to cross the Lys north of Armentières, which necessitated the 17th Infantry Brigade throwing back its flank

to l'Epinette. On the 19th October the Division entrenched on the line it had won. To the right were French cavalry and cyclists, covering the gap between the right of the III Corps and the left of the I Corps near Aubers. The advance from Hazebrouck to the ridge had occupied six days, and cost the Division some 750 casualties. On the morning of the 20th October the Germans attacked very heavily on the whole front. Fighting on a very extended front (five miles) and with very little in hand, the Division was soon in difficulties, particularly on the exposed left flank, where the Leinsters had their three left companies quickly driven in, and the situation at midday was critical. One company with the machine-guns was able to hold on until the afternoon at Mont de Prêmesques, and to withdraw under cover of darkness, having inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. Meanwhile units of other brigades were putting up a gallant fight against great odds, each unit generally with one or both flanks unsupported. At Ennetières, which formed rather a salient, the Sherwood Foresters held out all day, but were attacked at dusk by three battalions and practically annihilated or captured, only the CO., Adjutant, Q.M. and 250 other ranks remaining the next day. The Buffs, after a splendid fight, were driven out of Radinghem, and by night the Division was practically back on the line which it was to hold for the next few months, and on which the German offensive of 1918 still found the British. Continuous unsuccessful attempts to break through occurred till 31st October, when trench warfare set in. Notable among these was the attack on the K.S.L.I. and Y. and L. on the 23rd October, when 300 enemy dead were left in front of our trenches; on the 18th Infantry Brigade on the night of the 27/28th October, when the enemy captured the line, but was driven out by a counter-attack, in which the East Yorks specially distinguished themselves; and on the night of the 29/30th October, when the 19th Infantry Brigade lost some trenches, but counter-attacked successfully, and counted 200 German dead. The incident of Cpl. Forward, 1st The Buffs, is typical of the fierce fighting. On 30th October, when the O.C. machine-guns of The Buffs and all the team had been killed or wounded, this gallant N.C.O. continued to fire his gun until eventually wounded in five places, when he crawled back to report the situation. He was rewarded with the D.C.M. During the whole period, 20th to 30th October, the guns were woefully short of ammunition, and consequently a greater strain was thrown on the infantry."

JOBSON, GEORGE FRANK. Private, 20882.

1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died 25 September 1916. Aged 19.

Born Fulham, Middlesex 19 April 1897.

Enlisted Hounslow, Middlesex. Resided Ashford, Middlesex.

Son of Charles George Jobson and Emily Jane Jobson (née Port) of Stanley Villa, Lancaster Gardens, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 6 B and 6 C.

George was baptised in the parish church of St. Andrew, Fulham, Middlesex on 20 June 1897, at which time the Jobson family resided at 50, Biscay Road, Fulham, Middlesex, and George's father Charles George Jobson was employed

as a Police Constable. George was numbered amongst the 44 other ranks of his battalion who died on 25 September 1916. On the day that George and his comrades lost their lives, the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment took part in an attack on the Somme village of Morval, on the first day of the 'Battle of Morval' (25 - 28 September 1916). At 1700 hours on 24 September, the 19 officers and 437 other ranks of George's battalion moved off to the north west corner of Faviere Wood about a mile to the north east of Maricourt, to draw stores for the attack the following day. Via Chimpanzee Valley and Trones Wood, the battalion passed through Guillemont to its designated assembly trenches. "A" and "C" Companies relieved companies of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and "B" and "D" Companies went into an assembly trench. Enemy shelling resulted in 27 casualties in "C" Company. After the attack commenced at 1235 hours under a supporting artillery barrage, several members of the battalion became victims of their own artillery when they outpaced the creeping barrage. In view of the number of casualties due to both the enemy and the supporting artillery fire, it would seem very likely that George was killed during the shelling.



PAILTHORPE, HAROLD ANDERSON. Flight Lieutenant.

No. 8 Squadron, Royal Naval Air Service.

Died 23 May 1917. Aged 26.

Born New Southgate, Middlesex 25 July 1890.

Son of Henry Noel Pailthorpe and Caroline Georgina Louisa Pailthorpe (née Anderson) of Downs Cottage, Hillborough, Herne Bay, Kent.

Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: XV. G. 24.

Commemorated on the Stock Exchange War Memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Pailthorpe family resided at Hornchurch, Essex. Unfortunately the actual address of the family is difficult to read on the census entry, but 49 year old Islington, London native Henry Noel Pailthorpe was recorded by the enumerator as being the head of the house and a Draughtsman. In Kellys Directory of 1902 for Hornchurch, Essex, Henry Pailthorpe's Private Residence is shown as being at Carter Avenue. Prior to his enlistment, Harold

had been employed as a Clerk at the Stock Exchange. Harold obtained his Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificate at the Royal Naval Air Station, Chingford, Essex on 11 May 1916, flying a Grahame-White Biplane. At the time of obtaining his certificate, Harold was a Flight Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service, and his address or correspondence was "Fairmead," Hornchurch, Essex. Led by Flight Lieutenant G.G. Simpson, 'A' Flight of No. 8 Squadron, Royal Naval Air Service carried out an offensive patrol at 1915 hours to Lens. During the return leg of the patrol, 'A' Flight became involved in dogfights with a formation of 11 enemy Albatros Scouts of Jasta 11. During the engagement Harold's Sopwith Triplane No. N5481 was shot down at 2115 hours, and he was killed over Faschoda near Lens-Douai, by 23 year old Leutnant Hans Hinsch of Jasta 11. As the engagement in which Harold lost his life, took place within sight of the home aerodrome of his squadron at St. Eloi, the aircraft of 'C' Flight took off to render assistance, but by the time that they reached 'A' Flight the German Albatros Scouts had broken off from the fight and departed. Prior to his death Harold was Mentioned in Despatches. He had claimed a victory over an enemy LVG machine which spun in near Gavrelle, Pas de Calais, France on 7 May 1917. The destruction of Harold's machine was the third and final aerial victory for Hans Hinsch, who was killed the day after his engagement with Harold, whilst flying an Albatros DIII No. 2016/16. The shooting down of Hans Hinsch, was probably by Flight Commander (later Major) Charles Dawson Booker of Speldhurst, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, who died on 13 August 1918, aged 21.

PARGETER, REGINALD AMHERST. Second Lieutenant.

3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Attached to the 1st Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Died 8 May 1915. Aged 22.

Born Aldeburgh, Suffolk? (Please see below).

Son of Edward Thomas Pargeter and Ada Matilda Pargeter (née Piddington) of Reculver Hatch, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 21, and on the Aldeburgh, Suffolk civic war memorial.

Reginald's Commonwealth War Grave Commission commemoration details show him to have been a native of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, which appears to possibly be an error. At the time of the 1901 census, the Pargeter family resided at 62, Montague Road, Hounslow, Heston, Middlesex. Head of the house was 37 year old Kensington, London native Edward Thomas Pargeter, who was a Surveyor. The census enumerator recorded Reginald as being a 7 year old native of Hampstead, London. Additional research revealed that the birth of a Reginald Amhurst Pargeter was registered in the Hampstead, London registration district during the second quarter of 1893. Reginald was posted to France in March 1915. Reginald and 6 fellow officers in his battalion who died on 8 May 1915 were initially posted as missing, on the first day of the 'Battle of Frezenberg Ridge' (8-13 May 1915). The Germans had moved their artillery forward and put three Army corps opposite the British 27th and 28th Divisions on the Frezenberg Ridge, Reginald's battalion being in the 28th Division, 84th Brigade. The battle

began on May 8 with a bombardment that disrupted the 83rd Brigade holding trenches on the forward side of the ridge, but the first and second assaults by enemy infantry were repelled by the survivors. The third enemy assault of the morning pushed the defenders back. While the neighbouring 80th Brigade stopped the advance, the 84th Brigade was broken giving a two mile gap in the line. Further advance was stopped through counterattacks and a night move by the 10th Brigade. In July 1920, Reginald's elder brother Clive Edward Effingham Pargeter submitted a claim to the War Office, to be send the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, and the Victory Medal which had been awarded to Reginald. During the Great War, Clive had served as an officer in the Royal Engineers, and was posted to France in July 1915. In 1916 as a Lieutenant he was Mentioned in Despatches, the details of which were published on page 215 of the London Gazette dated 4 January 1917. After the war, Clive was employed as a Surveyor by the Sinai Mining Company at Abu Zenima, Egypt. Reginald's father died in 1952, aged 85, and his mother died in 1945, aged 77. Both of Reginald's parents' deaths were registered in the Bridge, Kent registration district, which might be indicative of them still residing in the Reculver area at the times of their demise.

The Second World War

1939 – 1945

Royal Navy

MOUNT, FREDERICK STEPHEN ALFRED. Petty Officer, C/SSX 23681.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Laforey. (G 99).

Died 30 March 1944. Aged 24.

Son of Fredrick and Edith Mount.

Husband of Margaret Muriel Mount of Beltinge, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 74, Column 3.

H.M.S. Laforey was a 1,935 ton L class destroyer which was built by Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd. at Scotstoun, Scotland, and was commissioned on 26 August 1941. Prior to her loss, H.M.S. Laforey had played an active part in the war at sea, which is reflected in her Battle Honours "Malta Convoys 1941-42, Diego Suarez 1942, Atlantic 1942, Sicily 1943, Salerno 1943, Mediterranean 1943-44, Anzio 1944." Commanded by 39 year old Captain Harold T. Armstrong D.S.O., D.S.C. & Bar, R.N., the destroyer was torpedoed and sunk approximately 60 miles northeast of Palermo, Sicily by the German uboat U-223, which was commanded by 22 year old Oberleutnant zur See Peter Gerlach. A total of 189 officers and ratings were lost when H.M.S. Laforey was sunk, including Captain Armstrong. Shortly after sinking H.M.S. Laforey, the U-223 was sunk by depth charges from the Royal Navy destroyers H.M.S. Tumult, H.M.S. Hambledon, and H.M.S. Blencathra. There were 27 survivors following the sinking of the U-223, but Peter Gerlach who was one of the youngest uboat commanders of the Second World War, was numbered amongst the 23 German submariners that lost their lives.

HAMLYN, WILLIAM THEODORE.

Lieutenant-Commander (E). M.L.Mar.E., A.M.I.Mech. E.

Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Drake IV.

Died 8 January 1944. Aged 58.

Born St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Son of the Reverend William Hamlyn, B.A. and Katherine Ellen Hamlyn.

Husband of Olive Muriel Hamlyn (née Barlow) of Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Commemorated at Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium, Holders Hill Road, Hendon, London, NW4. Panel 5.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Hamlyn family resided at 50, Royal Park, Clifton, Bristol, Gloucestershire. Head of the house was 47 year old Totnes, Devonshire native the Reverend William Hamlyn. Having travelled from their home in Malaya, William and his wife arrived at the Port of London on 20 March 1937, onboard the Alfred Holt and Company Ltd, 10,058 ton ship Aeneas. William and Olives destination was 4, Grantham Road, Dalston, London. In view of the fact that William later served as an officer in the Engineering Branch of the Royal Naval Reserve, it was not a surprise to learn that at the time of his passage from Malaya, William was recorded as being an Engineer. William is recorded as having died of an illness, as opposed to having lost his life resultant of enemy action. The Aeneas, on which William had returned to England, was sunk by German aircraft off Plymouth on 2 July 1940.

Merchant Navy

PLACE, EDMUND BOWES. First Radio Officer.

Merchant Navy, S.S. Empire Citizen (London).

Died 3 February 1941. Aged 30.

Son of Alfred and Lily Place.

Born Staines, Middlesex.

Commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 39.

Edmund's 4,683 ton cargo ship which was formerly the German vessel Wahehe, and was built by Reiherstieg Schiffswerfte & Maschinenfabrik, which also known as Reiherstieg Werft, at Hamburg, Germany. The Wahehe was launched in August 1922 for the Woermann Line, of Hamburg. She sailed from Hamburg prior to the declaration of the Second World War in 1939, to seek refuge in the city of Vigo, Galicia, Spain. Wahehe sailed from Vigo on 10 February 1940, but she was intercepted and captured southeast of Iceland on 21 February 1940 by the Royal Navy destroyer H.M.S Kimberly, and the light cruiser H.M.S. Manchester After the crew of the Wahehe were told that if they scuttled the ship no attempt would be made to rescue them, the ship was surrendered to the Royal Navy ships. Following the capture of the Wahehe she was escorted to Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands, arriving on 23 February 1940. The ship was renamed S.S. Empire Citizen by the Ministry of War Transport, and was owned by P. Henderson & Co, Glasgow, with London as her homeport. Commanded by 39 year old Edward Crane Hughes of Bearsden, Dunbartonshire, Scotland, at 0145 hours on 3 February 1941, Edmund's ship was hit underneath the bridge by

one torpedo fired from the German uboat U107, to the southwest of Iceland. S.S. Empire Citizen was a straggler from convoy OB-279 when she was attacked. The ship had been spotted on a zigzag course six hours before, and Kapitänleutnant Günther Hessler commanding the U-107 missed with his first torpedo at 0019 hours. Günther Hessler observed how the S.S. Empire Citizen sank slowly on an even keel, and that the crew had abandoned ship, he then fired a stern torpedo at 0223 hours that hit aft and caused Edmund's to sink by the stern quickly. The ships master, 64 crew members, one D.E.M.S. gunner and 12 passengers were lost. Four crew members and D.E.M.S. one gunner survived the sinking and were later picked up by the Royal Navy corvette H.M.S. Clarkia, which was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Frederick J.G. Jones, R.N.R. and all were landed safely at Londonderry. S.S. Empire Citizen was the first of 21 ships sunk by Günther Hessler whilst in command of the U-107. Günther Hessler was the son-in-law of Grossadmiral Karl Dönitz, having married Karl Dönitz's only daughter Ursula, in November 1937, he died at Bochum-Laer, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, on 4 April 1968, aged 58.

Army

FOAD, GEORGE HENRY. Private, 14343507.

2nd Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment.

Died 8 February 1944. Aged 30.

Born and resided Kent.

Son of Henry Foad and Lydia Emma Foad (née Pressley) of Broomfield, Herne Bay, Kent.

Buried Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy. Grave Ref: XVIII. D. 4.

Formerly Private, General Service Corps (post September 1943), George's subsequent battalion went to France with the British Expeditionary Force in September 1939 as part of the 1st Division, and was involved in the 'Battle of France,' before being evacuated from Dunkirk on 1 June 1940. The battalion remained in the United Kingdom until 1943, where George joined it. It sailed to North Africa and took part in the 'Battle of Tunisia. The 2nd Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment took part in the amphibious landings at Anzio on 22 January 1944, and it then continued to serve in Italy until January 1945, when the battalion and the rest of 1st Division were transferred to Palestine.

COOPER, DENNIS AKROYD. Warrant Officer Class II (C.S.M.), 54748.

Army Physical Training Corps, attached to the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps.

Died 27 March 1945. Aged 28.

Born Yorkshire. Resided Kent.

Son of Dennis and Annie Cooper.

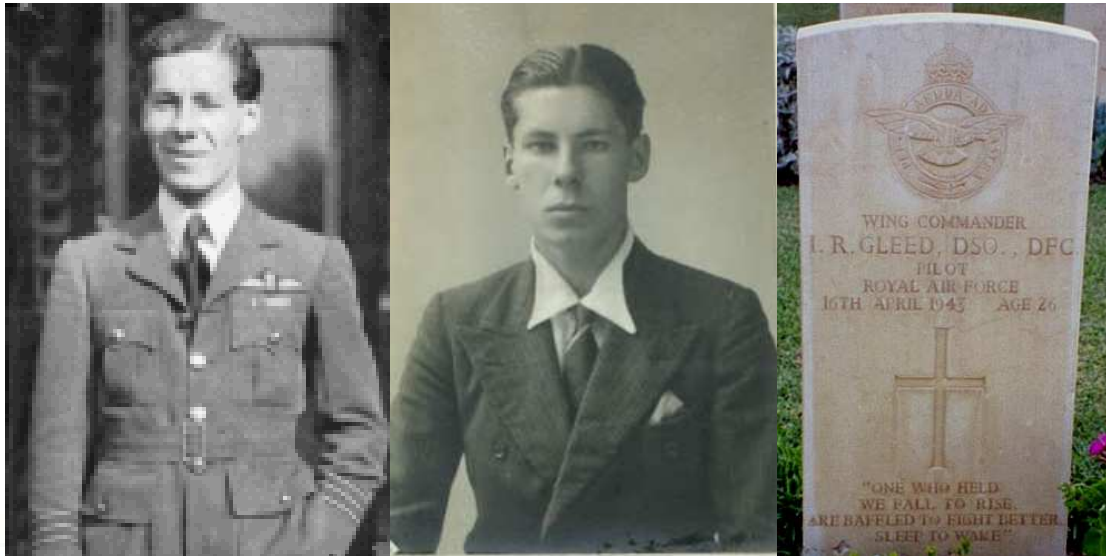
Husband of Florence Laura Cooper (née Amos) of Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent.

Buried Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands.

Grave Ref: IV. F. 9.

Pre war member of the Royal Army Service Corps.

Royal Air Force



GLEED, IAN RICHARD. D.S.O., D.F.C. Wing Commander (Pilot), 37800.

601 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 16 April 1943. Aged 26.

Born Finchley, Middlesex 3 July 1916.

Son of Doctor Seymour Richard Gleed and Florence Hair Gleed of Finchley, Middlesex.

Buried Enfidaville War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave Ref: V. E. 22.

Ian, who was known in the Royal Air Force by his nickname "Widge," was educated at Tenterden Preparatory School, Kent, and at Epsom College, Surrey. On 12 July 1935, whilst still a student, Ian obtained his Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificate at the London Aeroplane Club, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, flying a Gypsy Moth. Gypsy II 105. At the time of obtaining his certificate, Ian's home address was "Edendale," Church End, Finchley, London, N3. Ian joined the Royal Air Force on a short service commission in March 1936. Whilst carrying out an afternoon patrol over the Cap Bon peninsula in far northeastern Tunisia on 16 April 1943, Ian was shot down, probably by Ernst-Wilhelm Leutnant Reinert (1919-2007) of JG77. After his Spitfire (AB502) had been hit, Ian then headed for the Tunisian coast. His aircraft was found on sand dunes near the sea on the western coastline of Cap Bon. Although Ian's body was not found there, it was known that he had been buried at Tazoghane, and after being recovered later he was reburied with military honours befitting his rank, at the Military Cemetery at Enfidaville on 25 April 1944. In addition to being awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and the Distinguished Flying Cross, Ian was also awarded the Croix de Guerre avec Palme (Belgium), and Croix de Guerre avec Etoile de Vermeil (France). Ian has been commemorated on the Reculver civic war memorial as N.R. Gleed.



HELCKE, DENIS ARNOLD. Sergeant (Pilot), 745320.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 504 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died 17 September 1940. Aged 24.
Born Birmingham, Warwickshire 3 September 1916.
Son of Walter Arnold Helcke and Marjory Helcke (née Simkin) of Herne Bay, Kent.
Buried Herne Bay Cemetery, Kent. Grave Ref: Section DDR. Grave 16.
Commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial, and at the King Edward VII School, Johannesburg, South Africa where Denis had been a pupil. Having travelled from Durban, South Africa, Denis arrived with his parents at the Port of London on 3 May 1924, as passengers aboard The Union Castle Mail Steamship Company 6,288 ton vessel Gascon. At the time of their arrival, the destination of the Helcke family was 7, Cavendish Road, Herne Bay, Kent. The family later returned to South Africa, and resided in Cape Town and probably remained there until Denis's father retired, as he is shown as being retired when the family arrived at Southampton on 22 July 1935. On that occasion, the Helcke family had travelled back from their home in Cape Town, as first class passengers aboard The Union Castle Mail Steamship Company 10,799 ton vessel Llandaff Castle. Whilst still a student, and only a month after arriving back in Kent, Denis obtained his Royal Aero Club Aviators' Certificate at the Kent Flying Club on 29 August 1935, flying a Miles Hawk. At the time of obtaining his certificate, Denis's home address was South Lodge, Herne, Kent. Tragically Denis lost control of his Hawker Hurricane (No.V7529), after a dummy attack on his aircraft by R.A.F. fighters at 1600 hours over Faversham, Kent. Denis hit the tail of his Hurricane whilst baling out of his aircraft and was killed. Denis was a grandson of the prolific military artist Richard Simkin (1840-1926), who was living and working in Aldershot, Hampshire, during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Richard is particularly well known for his small, finely detailed and accurate paintings of military uniforms and parades; he also painted recruiting posters and illustrations for the Army and Navy Gazette.

SOUTHERN, DEREK JOHN NIGEL. D.F.M. Flying Officer (Pilot), 107910.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 49 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died 8 April 1943. Aged 22.

Born Wilsden, London.

Son of John Coltman Southern and Helen Violet Southern (née Walgrave) of Battersea, London.

Buried Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.

Grave Ref: 10. F. 12.

Derek was the pilot of Lancaster bomber ED590 EA-L when it took off from R.A.F. from Fiskerton, Lincolnshire, at 2117 hours on 8 April 1943. The Lancaster was in a force of 392 aircraft comprised of 156 Lancasters, 97 Wellingtons, 73 Halifaxes, 56 Stirlings, and 10 Mosquitos, which were taking part in a raid on Duisburg, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. This raid was one of the first major raids on Duisburg and caused lots of destruction around the whole city. Derek's bomber was amongst the 19 aircraft that were lost on the Duisburg raid of 8/9 April 1943, which were 7 Wellingtons, 6 Lancasters, 3 Halifaxes, 3 Stirlings. When Lancaster bomber ED590 EA-L crashed at 2345 hours in the target area near Hubbelrath, Düsseldorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Derek and his crew taking part on their forth operation together when they died, their aircraft had completed 70 hours flying time when it was lost. The crew were buried at the Nordfriedhof, Düsseldorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen Germany on 13 April 1943. They have since been re-interred in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery which was created after the Second World War, when burials were brought in from all over western Germany and is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the country. Duisburg with its large harbour, industrial area, and lots of railroad tracks running throughout the city made it a significant target. A lot of people subsequently left Duisburg after the early raids on the city, and went to quieter areas of Germany. Following a bombing raid on the city on 13 May 1943, all of the schools in Duisburg had been closed until the cessation of hostilities.

STEELE, MICHAEL WILLIAM BEEVOR. Flight Sergeant (Air Bomber),

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 44 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Thursday 22 June 1944.

Buried Lanklaar Communal Cemetery, Dilsen-Stokkem, Limburg, Belgium.

Grave Ref: Collective grave 1-7.

William was amongst the seven man crew of Lancaster bomber ND552 KM-X which was flown by 22 year old Flying Officer Neil Joseph Smith R.A.A.F., of Midland Junction, Western Australia, when it took off at 2258 hours from R.A.F. Dunholme Lodge, Lincolnshire, on 21 June 1944. The bomber was one of sixteen of 44 Squadron, Royal Air Force Lancasters dispatched from R.A.F. Dunholme Lodge, as part a force which was comprised of 133 Lancasters and 6 Mosquitos, that took off from numerous bomber stations detailed to attack the synthetic-oil plant at Wesseling, to the south of the city of Cologne, Germany. All the aircraft in the bombing force were from No. 5 Group, R.A.F. Bomber Command, except for 5 Lancasters provided by No. 1 Group, R.A.F. Bomber Command. The weather forecast for the target area (and for the attack on

Scholven/Buer which took place at the same time) predicted clear conditions, but the bombing force encountered 10/10ths low cloud. The planned No. 5 Group low-level marking method could not be used and the reserve method, in which the Lancasters bombed on H₂S, was used instead. German night fighters made contact with the bomber force and 37 Lancasters were lost, Nos. 44, 49 and 619 Squadrons each losing 6 aircraft. Post-raid reconnaissance showed that only slight damage was caused to the oil plant, however a secret German report quoted in the British Official History records a 40 per cent production loss at Wesseling after this raid, albeit the loss was only of short duration. Michaels Lancaster crashed into the grounds of the Limburg-Maas coalmine located between the villages of Eisden and Lanklaar, Dilsen-Stokkem, Limburg, Belgium. William and the other members of his crew are buried together, at Lanklaar Communal Cemetery, Dilsen-Stokkem, Limburg, Belgium. One of the other members of the crew is a Kent casualty Raymond William Brett. Raymond was a pupil at the Dover Boys Grammer School from 1936 to 1940 where he is commemorated, he is also commemorated in the Dover, Kent 'Book of Remembrance' which is in the safe keeping of the Dover Museum.





THIS STONE
WAS ERECTED BY THE PARISHIONERS OF
RECVLVER IN MEMORY OF THE MEN
CONNECTED WITH THIS PARISH
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918.

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR HIS FRIENDS.

H. M. NAVY

- W. J. FOAD. 1915. H. M. S. FORMIDABLE.
- F. A. FOAD. 1915. H. M. S. FOXHOUND.
- C. F. HARE. 1915. H. M. S. NATAL.
- S. R. SMITH. 1915. H. M. S. FORMIDABLE.
- J. F. SOUDEN. 1917. H. M. S. VANGUARD.
- W. J. STEED. 1917. H. M. S. INFLEXIBLE.

H. M. ARMY

- MAJOR H. NICHOLAY. 1915. 2ND CURKHAS.
- A. BENNETT. 1918. R. O. A.
- H. T. FIELDER. 1915. 1ST BUFFS.
- A. W. HARCOURT. 1917. A. S. C.
- H. B. HEATHER. 1915. P. P. C. L. I.
- F. H. PRETT. 1917. 8TH BUFFS.
- E. READ. 1916. 8TH BUFFS.
- L. C. RUSSELL. 1917. R. E.
- S. G. J. SPRATT. 1917. A. S. G. M. T.
- C. H. WILLIAMS. 1918. 19TH K. L. I.
- H. G. RICHES. 1916. 1ST CANADIAN DIVN.
- N. C. SCRUBY. 1921. 4TH BEDFS.

GREAT WAR COMMEMORATIONS



SECOND WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIONS

