

Riverhead



The parish of Riverhead is part of the built-up area to the north of the town of Sevenoaks. At the time of compiling the following brief commemorations of the Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Great War casualties, the civic war memorial which is in the form of the granite memorial plaque as shown above, is located in the garden of Riverhead Village Hall. The Village Hall was opened in 1999, replacing the earlier Memorial Hall which had been erected by public subscription after the Great War, as a form of remembrance of the local Riverhead war dead. The exact location of the memorial plaque can clearly be seen, when viewing the photograph which as the end of the following commemorations. We have been given to understand, that it has recently been suggested that the civic war memorial should be moved from its present position, and be relocated to a newly cleared site at the entrance to 'The Riverhead' (Harvester) car park at Amherst Hill, (on the A224) Riverhead. As can be seen above and below, the casualties commemorated on the memorial have been set out in chronological order of death as opposed to alphabetically. The following transcriptions are by Patrick D. Scullion. Both of the photographs which accompany the following brief commemorations, have been very kindly provided for inclusion here by Susan F.

The Great War

1914 -1919

WOOD, HARRY DOUGLAS. Gunner, 74192.

123rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 26 August 1914. Aged 18.

Born Rotherfield, Sussex. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent. Resided Riverhead, Kent.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Henry Wood of 7, London Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France.

FORWARD, H.A. Private. Died 1914. As commemorated on the Riverhead memorial plaque, as can be seen on the photograph above. The only casualty with the surname FORWARD, who is commemorated by the CWGC as having died in 1914, is Private, 6592, GEORGE THOMAS FORWARD of the 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment who fell on 30 December 1914, aged 24. Son of the late Joseph and Ellen Forward of Coulsden, Surrey. Born Maidstone, Kent. Enlisted Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 34. At this point in time no additional supporting data for a Great War casualty H.A. FORWARD has been found, irrespective of date, rank, unit, or nationality. Only 22 Great War casualties with the surname FORWARD are commemorated by the CWGC.

BLAKE, HENRY, Rifleman, 3765.

2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade.

Died 9 May 1915.

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

Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 10.

Henry was posted to France on 7 November 1914.

HEATH, BERNARD ALFRED. Private, G/775.

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

Died 4 April 1916.

Born Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Mary A. Heath of Aston Abbots, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and of the late Thomas Heath.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 95.

On the Riverhead memorial plaque, Bernard is commemorated as having been a Lance Corporal at the time of his death. When Bernard enlisted for a term of 3 years with the Colours on 2 February 1914, he stated that he was aged 21 years and 4 months, and employed as a Footman, and also stated that he had already completed a term of 5 years military service as a member of the 4th (Territorial) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and that he was a member of the National Reserve. Bernard was posted to France on 1 June 1915. At the time of his death, Bernard's parents resided at 3, Myrtle Cottages, Chipstead Lane, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

GOSS, EDOUARD HERBERT ALLAN. Lieutenant.

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

Died 1 July 1916. Aged 39.

Born Rangoon, Burma 13 June 1877.

Son of Louis Allan Goss and Marie Leonie Aubert Goss of 5, Harvey Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire.

Buried Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: VIII. R. 4.

Commemorated on the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation Memorial, which is located in Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Rangoon, Myanmar.

Edouard was Clifton College between 1889 and 1895. He was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in December 1914, and had been posted to France on 10 October 1915, prior to his death Edouard had been Mentioned in Despatches. Captain (later Major) Arthur G. Kenchington submitted the following report appertaining to the some of the events about the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on the first day of the 'Battle of the Somme 1916, including the following which makes mention of Edouard's demise: - "Before 'Y' day I had collected and stored in No. 10 sap necessary bombs and apparatus. I had put notice-boards directing runners to this point at the end of all saps and trenches in the crater area. At zero [7:30 a.m.] the three sections of each platoons advanced as arranged round the flanks and the other two sections with

snipers went over the craters which were very muddy. The left-hand party entered the enemy trenches with only one casualty, the platoon Commander Lieut. E.H.A. Goss, who was killed instantly by a shell. This platoon found the rear portion of the crater area quite knocked out of recognition, and soon overcame two bombing parties and three or four snipers who opposed them." Initially Edouard was buried in a crater on the Carnoy-Montauban Road, but during the post Great War battlefield clearances his body was recovered, and in 1920 his parents were informed by the War Office that his remains had been exhumed and reinterred at the Dantzig Alley British Cemetery. Edouard's mother was born on the French Colony of the Isle of Bourbon in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar, which is now known as Reunion Island.

HARRIS, ERNEST RUSSELL. Lance Corporal, R/7190.

1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 27 July 1916. Aged 20.

Born Mayfield, Sussex. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Thomas and Annie Mary Harris of Riverhead Dairy Farm, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Pier and Face 13 A and 13 B.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Harris family resided at Bradbown Farm Cottage, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old Chardstock, Axminster, Dorset, native Thomas Harris, who was employed as a Cowman. Ernest was posted to France on 19 May 1915. He was killed in action at Delville Wood, Longueval, Somme, during a joint attack by his battalion and the 23rd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) (1st Sportsmans). It was during the same action that cost Ernest his life that 36 year old Sergeant Albert Gill of Birmingham won was also killed, his heroism resulting in the award of a posthumous Victoria Cross. An extract from "The London Gazette" dated 24 October 1916, records the following:-"For most conspicuous bravery. The enemy made a very strong counter-attack on the right flank of the battalion, and rushed the bombing post after killing all the company bombers. Serjeant Gill at once rallied the remnants of his platoon, none of whom were skilled bombers, and reorganised his defences, a most difficult and dangerous task, the trench being very shallow and much damaged. Soon afterwards the enemy nearly surrounded his men by creeping up through the thick undergrowth, and commenced sniping at about twenty yards' range. Although it was almost certain death, Serjeant Gill stood boldly up in order to direct the fire of his men. He was killed almost at once, but not before he had shown his men where the enemy were, and thus enabled them to hold up their advance. By his supreme devotion to duty and self-sacrifice he saved a very dangerous situation." Unlike Ernest whose body was never found, Sergeant Albert Gill V.C. is at rest at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme. Grave Ref: IV. C. 3. It is noticeable on our visits to the cemetery, that the grave of Albert Gill V.C. is the easiest to locate there, as you just follow the footprints along the immaculate grass paths.

HEATH, HENRY JAMES. Rifleman, 304067.
1st/5th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade).
Died 6 September 1916.
Born and resided Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted London.
Son of Alfred and Maria Heath (née Bonner).
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9 D.
Formerly Rifleman, 4812, 1st/5th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade).



HOLLAND, THOMAS. Private, 2018.
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment.
Died 1 October 1916. Aged 17.
Born and resided Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.
Son of Alfred and Avis Jane Holland (née Elcome) of Linden Square, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: III. B. 2.

JARVIS, REGINALD JOHN. Private, 22529.
10th (Service) Battalion, (Battersea) The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Died 24 February 1917. Aged 24.
Enlisted Brighton, Sussex. Resided Sevenoaks, Kent.
Son of William and Mary Ann Jarvis (née Miller).
Buried Klein-Vierstraat British Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: I. C. 13.
Formerly Private, 2230, Sussex Yeomanry.

LINGE, JOHN. M.M. Private, G/518.

1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 12 March 1917.

Born Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Foster son of Mrs. S. Tye of 8, Church Row Cottages, London Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. H. 11.

When John enlisted for 3 years with the Colours on 30 August 1914, he stated that he was aged 29 and 94 days, and employed as a Butcher. John was posted to France on 1 June 1915. Between 23 March 1916 and 26 May 1916, John was a patient at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Shooters Hill, Woolwich, receiving treatment for gunshot wounds to a thigh and arm. Notification of the award of the Military Medal to John was published in the London Gazette dated 14 September 1916. In addition to having been awarded the Military Medal, John was also Mentioned in Dispatches.

FORWARD, J. Gunner. Died 1917. This casualty as is the case with Private H.A. FORWARD who is also commemorated on the Riverhead memorial plaque, not only has he no CWGC commemoration, no additional supporting data has been found whilst researching. Whilst it is of course possible that both of the Riverhead 'FORWARD' casualties are numbered amongst the thousands of casualties from both world wars that are still not officially commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. On this occasion a more likely explanation is that both of the 'FORWARD' casualties had served and died during the Great War, but whilst using an alias. Adding to the frustration of not having located them at this time is the likelihood that they were related, and may even have been brothers.

COWLARD, CHARLES JOHN. Private, G/24599.

7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 8 January 1918.

Born Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of William and Ann S. Cowlard.

Buried Poelcapelle British Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. D. 20.

DICKMAN, WILLIAM. Serjeant, 265989.

7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 24 April 1918.

Born Bramshill, Hampshire. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: II. C. 17.

Formerly Serjeant, TF/265989, Kent Cyclist Battalion. At the time of the 1901 census, the then 17 year old William resided with his 47 year old mother, Susan Dickman, and his younger brother Ernest at Sunny Bank, Riverhead, Kent.

PEARCE, ALBERT EDWARD. Corporal, G/21204.
10th (Service) Battalion, (Kent County), Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 28 April 1918. Aged 34.
Born Hackney, Middlesex. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent. Resided Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Son of Walter and Elizabeth Pearce.
Husband of Louisa C. Pearce (née Pyne) of Heathfield Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: IX. A. 55.
Formerly Private, 202756, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). On the Riverhead memorial plaque, Bernard is commemorated as having been a Private at the time of his death.

HEATH, NORMAN ALFRED. Private, 225576.
1st (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).
Died 27 August 1918. Aged 31.
Born Dodbrooke. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent. Resided Riverhead, Kent.
Son of Robert and Edith Heath of Dodbrooke.
Husband of Edith Heath (née Crowson) of 25, London Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: III. H. 17.
Commemorated on the Kingsbridge, Devon, civic war memorial.
Formerly Private, 291167, Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion.

PALMER, ALBERT VALANTINE. Private, 201106.
2nd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died 22 September 1918. Aged 37.
Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent. Resided Sevenoaks, Kent.
Son of Mrs. Jane Palmer of 4, Myrtle Cottages, Chipstead Lane, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: G. 60.

LAWRENCE, GEORGE EDWARD. M.M. Company Serjeant Major, 32721.
13th (Service) Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment.
Died 5 November 1918. Aged 29.
Born and resided Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Gravesend, Kent.
Son of Richard and Elizabeth Lawrence of Sunny Bank, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Buried Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Tournai, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Ref: III. A. 8.
Formerly 12022, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

STEER, F. Corporal. Died 1916. No clear trace at this time.

The Great War

1914 -1919

Lost Casualties

BELLINGHAM, CHARLES. Private, G/19570.

7th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment.

Died 20 August 1916.

Born Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Tonbridge, Kent.

Buried Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: XXI. K. 1.

Commemorated on the Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, civic war memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Bellingham family resided at Bog Island, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Head of the house was Charles's widowed mother, 57 year old Sevenoaks native Janet Bellingham who was employed as a Helper at a Stables.

HILLS, WILLIAM JOHN. Lance Corporal, G/11850.

"C" Company, 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

Died 28 March 1918. Aged 24.

Born and resided Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Sevenoaks, Kent.

Son of Uriah and Sarah Hills of 38, Chipstead Lane, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 58.

LAMBARDE, BRIDGET TERESA AUREA. Nurse.

British Red Cross Society, Voluntary Aid Detachment, Royal Naval Hospital, Portland, Dorset.

Died 5 March 1919. Aged 29.

Born Ireland.

Daughter of Major William Gore Lambarde and Florence Lucy Lambarde (née Fetherstonhaugh) of Bradbourne Hall, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Riverhead, Sevenoaks, (St. Mary) Churchyard, Kent.

Grave Ref: B2, South of East end of Church.

Bradbourne Hall, Sevenoaks, was the former home of Francis Crawshay, a Welsh Iron Baron who owned coalmines and iron foundries. He lived at Bradbourne House, Sevenoaks from 1870, and quickly gained a reputation locally for his eccentricity. It was at Bradbourne that he caused great stone monoliths and Druidic circles to be erected within the grounds. Their eerie appearance kept the superstitious 'locals' out of the grounds after dark and his obituary makes mention of his pastime of indulging in midnight Druidical processions in the grounds of Bradbourne House. Arguably Francis Crawshay is best remembered in Kent for commissioning the 'Great Bell of Bradbourne' which weighed in excess of two tons, making it the second largest bell in Kent, and

which was only surpassed by 'Great Dunstan' at Canterbury Cathedral. Bradbourne Hall, was purchased by Bridget's father in 1906, and sold by him to Hugh Goff in 1927. The 'Great Bell of Bradbourne' was sold for scrap in 1918. Bridget's father; Major William Gore Lambarde was the Master of the West Kent Hunt for a number of years.

MUMBY, WALTER HENRY. Corporal, DM2/207454.
895th Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps.
Died 15 April 1917.

Born Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted Newport, Isle of Wight. Resided Salisbury.
Son of the late John Washington Mumby and of Jemimia Eliza Mumby (née Reid) of Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the Mikra Memorial, Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece, and on a memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of Christ Church, The Broadway, Sandown, Isle of Wight, that is inscribed as follows:-

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND/ WALTER HENRY MUMBY/
CORPORAL M.T. A.S.C./ DROWNED BY TOREDOING OF THE TRANSPORT
"ARCADIAN"/ IN THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN ON SUNDAY APRIL 15TH
1917/ 2ND SON OF THE LATE JOHN WASHINGTON MUMBY/ OF
RIVERHEAD, SEVENOAKS"

Walter was christened at Sevenoaks, Kent on 15 April 1879. He died when the HT "Arcadian" was torpedoed and sunk on 15 April 1917, 25 miles north east from the island of Milo (Melos), Greece, whilst carrying reinforcements for Egypt.

SHINGLETON, ARTHUR ROBERT. Driver, 1624.
3rd Home Counties Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 12 February 1916.

Born, enlisted and resided Dover, Kent.

Stepson of Elizabeth E. Shingleton.

Buried Riverhead, Sevenoaks, (St. Mary) Churchyard, Kent.

Grave Ref: I29. South Part of Cemetery.

Commemorated on the Dover, Kent civic war memorial.

SPRATT, EDWIN PERCY. Private, DM2/129650.

"X" Siege Park, Army Service Corps, attached to X Corps Heavy Artillery.

Died 19 November 1918.

Born Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

Son of Charles and Susannah Spratt (née Thunder) of Sydney Villa, Reculver Road, Herne Bay, Kent.

Husband of Ethel E. Spratt (née Brandel) of Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Tourcoing (Pont-Neuville) Communal Cemetery, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: N. 8.



The actual location of the Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Great War memorial plaque can clearly be seen on the left hand side of the photograph above. It being to the left of the tree at the side of the Village Hall, and immediately above the road sign. As was mentioned earlier, it has been suggested that the memorial plaque should be relocated to another position at Riverhead, Sevenoaks.

