

Sandwich

St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church



The Great War

1914 -1919

The Great War memorial plaque located in the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Sandwich, Kent, bears the following inscription: -

“To the Glory of God and the unfading memory of parishioners and members of the congregation of this church who gave their lives during the Great War 1914-18.”

Prior to 1948 the Cinque Port Town of Sandwich, Kent was comprised of the three separate parishes of St. Clement, St. Peter, and St. Mary. Upon the amalgamation of the three parishes, the church of St. Clement's became the town church. Services were discontinued at St. Mary's and some of its furnishings, including the pulpit, were taken for use at St. Peter's church, which had become the chapel of Sir Roger Manwood's School. Still consecrated St. Mary's occupies what is thought to be the oldest church site in Sandwich, where a 7th century convent was founded of which nothing now survives. St. Mary's eventually fell into disrepair, and in 1952 plans were made for its demolition. A severe gale in 1954 damaged the roof of St. Mary's and its timbers, and in 1956 a formal request for the demolition of the ancient church was submitted. Although a decision was made later in 1956 allowing for the demolition to take place, thankfully the commencement of the work was suspended for six months. His Worship the Mayor of Sandwich, Alderman J.J. Thomas, and a number of Sandwich residents, natives and people whose families had their roots in the town, used the suspension period to put in place a plan, and thankfully ultimately successful campaign to rescue St. Mary's church. Fortunately amongst the other interested people and organisations was Ivor Bulmer-Thomas of the Friends of Friendless Churches, and is he who was arguably the man mainly responsible why the church is still standing. The Sandwich St. Mary's Community Trust which was registered as a charity in 1997, has made significant progress on improving facilities for the church's use as a venue for different events, and the building is now in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust, which is a national body that oversees several hundred churches which have been selected for their historic and architectural value. It was nice to see that amongst the memorials etcetera which are still in St. Mary's church, that the Great War memorial plaque is still In situ where it rightfully belongs, and also that it is still in surprisingly good condition, more so when bearing in mind the chequered history of the church post the Great War years, particularly those of the 1950's prior to its rescue. As can be seen when viewing and comparing the following brief St. Mary's church commemorations, with the Great War casualties on the civic war memorial

on Market Street, Sandwich, it will be noted that all the following St. Mary's church casualties are also commemorated on the Sandwich, civic war memorial. Mention should also be made of the fact that it was noticed whilst carrying out the research and transcriptions of the Sandwich area memorials that in a few cases there are slight variations with initials and surnames etcetera between the two forms of the St. Mary's congregation and parishioners' local Sandwich remembrances. As is also the case with most of the transcribed war memorials on this website, the information appertaining to each of the following casualties varies in content, it being resultant of what the transcriber has access to for each.



The Biographies



BENNELL, ROBERT THOMAS. Private, 10/123.

Wellington Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Died Sunday 8 August 1915. Aged 31.

Enlisted and resided Takapau, Waipawa County, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand

Son of George and Sarah E. Bennell of St. Bartholomew's, Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial, Turkey. Panel 19.

Robert sailed from New Zealand on 16 October 1914. Chunuk Bair was one of the main objectives during the 'Battle of Sari Bair,' which was fought from Friday 6 to Tuesday 10 August 1915, as part of the eight month campaign at Gallipoli which was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war. The attack was to be carried out by two columns of the New Zealand Infantry Brigade, starting from the outposts on the shore and proceeding up the Sazli Belt Dere and the Chailak Dere. Originally Robert was numbered amongst the officers and other ranks of his regiment that were posted as missing following the 'Battle of Sari Bair,' but was later officially accepted for official purposes as having lost his life on Sunday 8 August 1915. The Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial is located on the north-west side of Chunuk Bair Cemetery, which was made after the Armistice on the site where the Ottoman troops had buried some of those Commonwealth soldiers who died between Friday 6 and Sunday 8 August 1915. It contains 632 Commonwealth burials, only ten of which are identified. During the Great War over 124,000 New Zealanders, they being almost ten per cent of the population joined the army. Of their number 100,000 served overseas, and the high percentage who served on the front-line is unfortunately reflected in the fact that they suffered approximately 58,000 casualties, which included about 17,000 officers and other ranks that lost their lives during the conflict. Our sincere thanks are due to Ms. Amelia Hancock of Rotorua, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, for kindly furnishing us with the photograph of Robert's commemoration inscription (as shown above) on the Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial in Turkey, for inclusion on this brief tribute to Robert.



BISHOP, ROBERT BENJAMIN GREAVES. Private, M2/148279.

634th Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps.

Died Monday 18 December 1916. Aged 19.

Born, enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of William Henry and Catherine Bishop (née Burden) of 78, Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Morogoro Cemetery, Tanzania. Grave Ref: VI. B. 6.

At the time of the 1901 census the Bishop family resided at Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 32 year old William Henry Bishop a native of Hallow, Worcester, Worcestershire who was employed as a Brewery Salesman. Mrs. Catherine Bishop was a 37 year old native of Rolvenden, Kent. Robert's medal card entry incorrectly records him with the Christian name Raymond, as opposed to Robert. The 634th Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps in which Robert served was formed on 13 January 1916, and served in East Africa as a Division Ammunition Column, after his death it was later absorbed into the 648th Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps on 21 June 1917. On Saturday 19 February 1916, the South African General (later Field Marshall), Jan Christian Smuts took command of British forces in East Africa, at which time the Germans were still firmly entrenched in British East Africa behind the Lumi River, with their centre on Taveta, southwest of Mount Kilimanjaro, and their right on Lake Jipe. When the Army Service Corps was first deployed, the British Field Force consisted of the 1st and 2nd East African Divisions. Prior to the signing of the Armistice, at its peak the Army Service Corps numbered just over 4,000 all ranks in the war theatre where Robert died, he being numbered amongst the 270 members of his corps to die in East Africa. Although the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not sighted Robert's death certificate, or some other form of supporting documentation, it was noted whilst carrying out the researches that a not insignificant number of deaths to the Army Service Corps, and other British personnel were directly attributable to a variety of illnesses which prevailed in East Africa, prominent among them being Malaria. The sicknesses resulted in approximately 1,000 Swahili, Ugandan, Indian and Nigerian drivers being engaged to make up the deficiencies. Morogoro was occupied by Commonwealth forces on Tuesday 26 August 1916 and the German civil cemetery was then taken over for Commonwealth war burials. Between the beginning of September 1916 and January 1919, 177 burials were carried out by the five medical units which were posted in the town, assisted by German medical personnel and civilians. After the Armistice, 169 graves were brought in from other burial grounds.

BLACKMAN, FREDERICK JOHN EDWARD. Private, 290899.

2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. 76th Brigade, 3rd Division.

Died Wednesday 23 October 1918. Aged 24.

Born and enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Richard Blackman of Sandwich, Kent.

Husband of Florence F. A. Blackman of 1, Chaise Cottage, Langdon Abbey, West Langdon, Ringwould, Kent.

Buried Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. D. 4.

Frederick's commemoration on the Sandwich, St. Mary's parish church Great War memorial plaque, as can be seen above is with just the initials E.J.

Formerly Private, 6078, Suffolk Regiment. At the onset of the Great War the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment was at the Curragh, County Kildare, Ireland, as part of 14th Brigade, 5th Division. Having been put on a war footing the Colours were taken to the Regimental Depot at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk for safe keeping by Lieutenant Nigel A. Bittleston who was escorted by eight other ranks. Soon after arriving in France, Frederick's battalion took part in the 'Battle of Le Cateau.' On Wednesday 30 September 1914 the remnants of the battalion were transferred to GHQ as Army Troops, after suffering heavy casualties at Le Cateau. On Sunday 25 October 1914, the battalion was attached to 8th Brigade, 3rd Division, and remained in the brigade until Friday 22 October 1915, when it was then attached to the 76th Brigade, 3rd Division, and remained so for the rest of the Great War.



BLAXLAND, ERIC PERCY. Private, 535425.

1st/15th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles). 175th Brigade, 58th Division.

Posted to the 1st/9th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles), (St. Pancras). 140th Brigade, 47th Division.

Died Wednesday 16 August 1917.

Born and resided Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Falmouth, Cornwall.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 54, and on Great War memorial panels at the Victoria Memorial Hospital, Deal, Kent.

Eric's birth was registered in the Eastry, Kent, Registration District, during the third quarter of 1895. His medal index card entry only records Eric as having been a member of the 1st/15th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles), but shows no additional information appertaining to the date of entering a war zone, nor does it show any family details, e.g. who to or where to send Eric's British War and Victory Medals.

Where no family details of the men commemorated on the Sandwich civic war memorial were added by the then Imperial War Graves Commission shortly after the Great War, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has attempted to add them, and also where possible to also record the casualties mothers maiden name. The last accessed census entry details for each man have also been added where possible in an attempt to aid researchers, but it has thus far been impossible to add any additional details appertaining to the family of Percy.

BOYCE, HERBERT GEORGE. Trooper, 2810.

2nd Life Guards. 7th Cavalry Brigade, 3rd Cavalry Division.

Died Wednesday 18 November 1914.

Born Beeston Hill, Leeds, Yorkshire. Enlisted Windsor, Berkshire.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 3.

Herbert's medal card entry shows that he had disembarked on 16 August 1914, which would appear to indicate that he had been a member of the Household Cavalry Composite Regiment, which was commanded by 45 year old Lieutenant Colonel, Edwin Berkley Cook, M.V.O. At the commencement of the Great War, the 16 British army regular cavalry regiments were earmarked for overseas service, whilst a seventeenth regiment was to be provided by a composite regiment formed with a troop from each of the three Household Cavalry regiments, which were the 1st Life Guards, 2nd Life Guards, and the Royal Horse Guards, and were assigned a mobilisation role in the 4th Cavalry Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel Cook, the son of Major E. A. Cook (11th Hussars), of Roydon Hall, Tonbridge, Kent, died on 4 November 1914. The entry in his private diary for 22 October 1914 reads: - "Dug ourselves in all morning. Astor and I were hit by shell at 2. Got moved at 7. Motor Ambulance to Bailleul. Stayed in Bailleul hospital. F. Guest, B. Lambton, and Sir John French came in afternoon. F.G. motored me to Boulogne. Arrived on board hospital ship "Carisbrooke Castle" 8 P.M. Boat left at 10 P.M." Edwin Berkley Cook is at rest at East Peckham (St. Michael) Churchyard, Tonbridge, Kent.

CLARK, J.A. No clear trace, but is also commemorated on the Sandwich civic war memorial. Whilst carrying out the researches appertaining to these brief commemorations, a Sandwich, Kent, native **JOHN A. CLARK** was revealed who was born c1868. His parents were Northbourne, Kent, native George Clark and his wife Hannah Clark who was born at Stowmarket, Suffolk. Regrettably the transcriber has thus far been unable to access any positive matching commemoration details for John A. Clark, or for any other positive match. Other information which has been obtained would seem to indicate that the Clark family had been Millers in the Sandwich area for a number of Generations.

COTTON, EDWARD (MILINER). Private, 8/2198.

1st Battalion, Otago Regiment, N.Z.E.F.

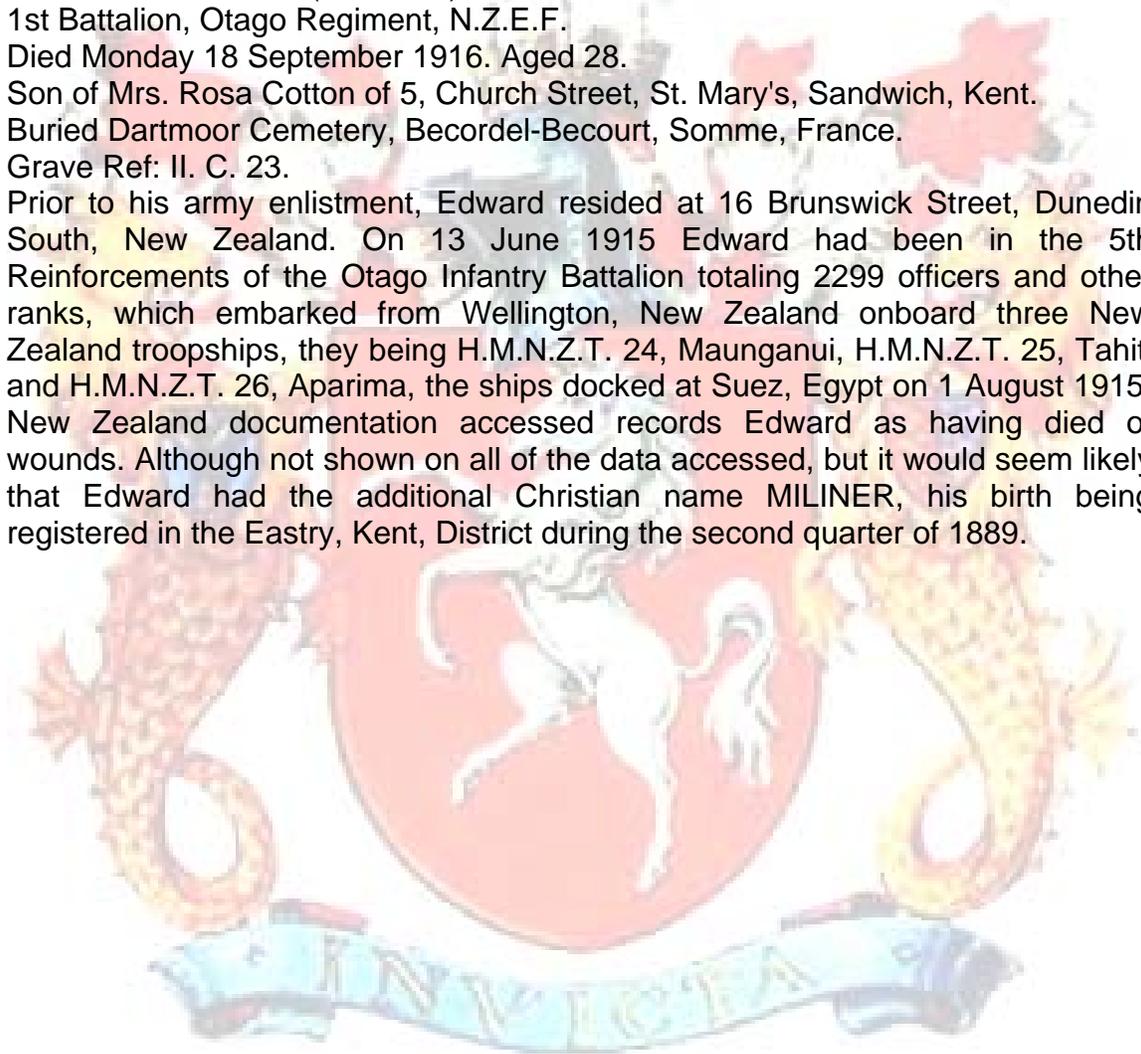
Died Monday 18 September 1916. Aged 28.

Son of Mrs. Rosa Cotton of 5, Church Street, St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: II. C. 23.

Prior to his army enlistment, Edward resided at 16 Brunswick Street, Dunedin South, New Zealand. On 13 June 1915 Edward had been in the 5th Reinforcements of the Otago Infantry Battalion totaling 2299 officers and other ranks, which embarked from Wellington, New Zealand onboard three New Zealand troopships, they being H.M.N.Z.T. 24, Maunganui, H.M.N.Z.T. 25, Tahiti and H.M.N.Z.T. 26, Aparima, the ships docked at Suez, Egypt on 1 August 1915. New Zealand documentation accessed records Edward as having died of wounds. Although not shown on all of the data accessed, but it would seem likely that Edward had the additional Christian name MILINER, his birth being registered in the Eastry, Kent, District during the second quarter of 1889.



DANIELS, ALBERT. Private, 495219.

2nd/2nd Home Counties Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Died Friday 9 November 1917. Aged 28.

Born Waltham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Albert John and Mary Daniels of 28, Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France.

Grave Ref: P. III. N. 8A.

Formerly Private, 2783, 2nd/2nd Home Counties Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. At the time of the 1901 census the Daniels family resided at Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 49 year old Waltham, Canterbury, Kent, native Albert John Daniels who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. His wife's maiden name was probably Browning. Albert passed his medical examination at the village of Woodnesborough, Sandwich on Sunday 27 September 1914, and enlisted in the army on Friday 30 October 1914, at which time he stated that he was aged 25 and 8 months, and that he was an Engineer. Until Wednesday 24 January 1917 when Albert embarked for France at Southampton, he had served within the United Kingdom, during which time on Thursday 30 November 1916 he was awarded a Good Conduct Badge. On Monday 25 January 1917 Albert arrived at the port of Harve, France to serve on the Western Front. On Sunday 28 October 1917, Albert was wounded in action suffering gunshot wounds to his back and right arm, and was evacuated from the front via the usual casualty train, until he eventually arrived at the 12 General Hospital, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France, where he succumbed to his wounds at 1930 hours on Friday 9 November 1917. The hospital where Albert died was based at Rouen from September 1914 to June 1917 being originally run by the Royal Army Medical Corps, it was then taken over by American Army from June 1917. The 2nd Home Counties Field Ambulance to which Albert belonged, was a Territorial Force, Kent based Royal Army Medical Corps unit.



DURBAN, ERNEST. Private, G/4433.

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

55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division.

Died Saturday 1 July 1916. Aged 22.

Born St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Frederick Durban of The Butts, Loop Street, Sandwich, Kent, and of the late Elizabeth Durban (née Court).

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

At the time of the 1901 census the Durban family resided at The Butts, Sandwich. Head of the house was 37 year old Sandwich native, Frederick Durban who was employed as a General Labourer. Elizabeth Durban death was registered in the Eastry, Kent, Registration District in the second quarter of 1917.

Of the four battalions of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) that took part in the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' it was only the 7th (Service) Battalion of the regiment which as part of the 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division actually fought on the first day of the battle on Saturday 1 July 1916 when Ernest lost his life. For many weeks prior to the battle, the whole of the 18th (Eastern) Division personnel irrespective of rank or job, had undertaken intense training in preparation for what was to come on the Somme. The location which was assigned to the 18th (Eastern) Division to be attacked on Saturday 1 July 1916, was an area of open ground which contained a number of strong enemy positions to the east of the village of Mametz and west of Montauban. It was pointed out to the officers and other ranks of Ernest's battalion whilst waiting in La Pree Wood prior to zero hour of 0730 hours, that should their division fail in its allotted task, it would add both to the difficulties and the casualties to the thirteen battalions of the 30th Division on their right which were going to attack the village of Montauban. The 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) when it attacked at 0730 hours, was on the extreme right flank of the divisional line, and adjacent to the 21st Brigade, of the 30th Division. Ernest's battalion was holding the line to the front of the village of Carnoy on the first day of the now famous but costly battle, its assigned objective was a German trench complex which was situated approximately two hundred yards to the north of the Montauban-Fricourt road. The order of battle for the battalions comprising the 55th Brigade, was the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) on the left, the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment on the right, and the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in support, but under orders to clear the Carnoy craters, and in reserve was the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Half an hour prior to zero hour the artillery bombardment of the enemy positions was intense, with an incredible rate of fire which was not lifted until 0722 hours, at which time the Trench Mortar Battery commenced firing until 0730 hours when the attacks along the British front commenced. Being the supporting battalion, The Buffs were charged with a number of wholly different tasks for the day, which included two platoons of 'B' Company led by Second Lieutenant V.G. H. Tatam being under orders to clear the Carnoy craters, which after six hours of very intense and heavy fighting by both sides were eventually successfully cleared, and for which Second

Lieutenant V.G. H. Tatam was awarded the Military Cross. Another two platoons of 'B' Company were allotted the task of carrying out the mopping up the ground captured by the two Surrey battalions as they pressed on to the German trenches. 'C' Company was detailed to consolidate and hold a trench complex named 'Pommiers Redoubt' when captured. Two platoons of 'D' Company had the task of being the carrying parties, and a couple of platoons of 'A' Company personnel were assigned to garrison two locations in the rear of the Pommiers Trench. As the attack on the enemy positions continued, the soldiers of 'C' Company were sent forward to help the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment on the right flank, and later two platoons of 'A' Company also went to their aid. Eventually the combination of the East Surrey's and Buffs succeeded in reaching the East Surrey's objective, and managed to hold it until being relieved by other troops. At about noon, half of 'D' Company was sent forward to assist the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) on the left flank, and they too were successful in reaching their objective, but at a cost, which included the loss of Captain Gerald T. Neame the commander of 'D' Company. Although the 18th (Eastern) Division was one of the most successful on the first day of 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' and the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) had done more than its fair share, particularly in the clearance of the craters which were far more heavily defended than had been anticipated. A total of 3,115 officers and other ranks of the 18th (Eastern) Division were casualties on Saturday 1 July 1916, which had included 4 officers and 48 other ranks deaths in the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), in addition to which were 2 officers and 144 other ranks wounded, plus 7 who were originally posted as missing.



EAST, PERCY JAMES. Private, G/6280.

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

37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.

Died 18 March 1916. Aged 22.

Born, enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Mrs. Selina Caroline East of 1, Jessamine Villas, Boatmans Hill, Sandwich, Kent, and the late Walter East.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.

At the time of the 1901 census the East family resided at Harnet Street, Sandwich. Head of the house was 48 year old Sandwich native, Walter East who was employed as a General Labourer. Percy enlisted in the army on Wednesday 5 May 1915 for the 'Duration of the War.' Percy was wounded in France during September 1915 whilst serving in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and after receiving treatment for his wounds at Etaples, Pas de Calais, he was evacuated back to the United Kingdom in October 1915. On 4 January 1916 Percy was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), at the Citadel, Western Heights, Dover, Kent, and was later posted back to serve in France as a member of the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Following his death, Percy was initially recorded as being 'Missing in Action,' but it was later accepted for official purposes that his death had occurred on 18 March 1916. It is not surprising and with real justification, that of all of the many actions fought by the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), in the area of the Hohenzollern Redoubt during March 1916, it was the heroism of William Cotter from Sandgate, Kent, on 6 March 1916 which is remembered the most. Not only was William the only member of his battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross, he was also the sole recipient of the award to any member of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the Great War. William Cotter V.C., died from his wounds which he received during his heroic action in what became known as "The Battle of the Craters." Percy East and at least two other men who were Sandwich born and bred on 18 March 1916 during the same battle. On the day that Percy East, Richard Fuller, and Henry Thompson lost their lives, the German artillery had commenced firing an intense bombardment on the craters at 0500 hours; the enemy then blew a number of mines and then attacked. During the German infantry attack, their minenwerfers (mine throwers) did a lot of damage to the craters and to the front line defences of the 12th (Eastern) Division, to which the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) belonged. Due to the earlier shelling all lines of communication were cut, and as the result of which local command of the individual positions that were under attack fell on the shoulders of junior officers, warrant officers and non commissioned officers. The three Sandwich casualties are numbered amongst at least thirty three other ranks of their battalion who died that day, but it is obviously impossible to say how, exactly where or when each of the three lost their lives. It is probably significant that on the right flank of the line being held by the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 18 March 1916, it was amongst the soldiers there that most of the casualties, deaths and woundings, are recorded as having taken place. All of the men garrisoning No's 1

and 2 craters, and "A" crater were either killed, or buried by explosions and wounded. Making matters worse was that the debris generated by the explosions at the above craters, had filled in other positions including the West Face and the top end of a location named Saville Row, plus Saps 9 & 9a. Seizing the moment, enemy infantry launched a successful counter attack and captured the craters, from which they were ultimately ejected after a later counter attack which was carried out by the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). During the Great War, at least another one of Percy's brothers (Ernest) had also served in the army as Gunner 237199, Royal Field Artillery. Following the cessation of the hostilities, Ernest served as a member of 'A' Battery, 76 Brigade, Royal Field Artillery in the Army of Occupation in Germany.

ELLENDER, CHRISTOPHER. Private, 57453.

14th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, (Pioneers). 21st Division.

Died Wednesday 28 August 1918. Aged 38.

Born Guildford, Surrey. (Please see below). Enlisted Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Mary Ann Ellender (née Stokes) of Sandwich, Kent, and of the late Sampson Ellender.

Husband of Emma Diamond (formerly Ellender) (née Dowle) late of 55, Church Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Buried Guildford (Stoke) Old Cemetery, Surrey. Grave Ref: G. 369.

Formerly Sapper, 185875, Royal Engineers. The place of birth (Guildford), as shown above was as accessed from Christopher's entry in/on SDGW, but at the time of the 1901 census when the Ellender family resided at Church Street, Sandwich, Kent, his place of birth was recorded by the enumerator as Sandwich. In view of the myriad of errors which are contained in/on SDGW, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has pointed out the variance re places of birth in an attempt to help anybody who carries out more in-depth research on Christopher, or on the Sandwich civic war memorial. Christopher's father, Sampson Ellender died in 1890, and his widow Mrs. Mary Ann Ellender was recorded as being the head of the house on the census referred to above. Aged 60 at the time of the census, Mary was a native of Capel, Kent, and was an 'Own Account' Shopkeeper and Confectioner.

ELLIOTT, HENRY JAMES. Corporal, T/31868.

No. 1 (H.Q.) Company, 37th Divisional Train, Royal Army Service Corps.

Died Wednesday 30 October 1918.

Born Stepney, Middlesex. Enlisted Ipswich, Suffolk. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Beaulencourt British Cemetery, Ligny-Thillois, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. C. 9.

Henry's medal card entry shows that he entered the French war theatre on 29 July 1915. Each Division of the British army had a certain amount of transport under its own command, known as the Divisional Train. It was the 'workhorse' of the Division in terms of carrying stores and supplies, providing the main supply line to the transport of the Brigades, Battalions, Artillery and other attached units. It was initially comprised 26 officers and 402 other ranks of the Army Service Corps looking after 378 horses, 17 carts, 125 wagons and 30 bicycles. These comprised a headquarters and 4 Hosed Transport Companies (one for each infantry Brigade, and one for Divisional HQ and other troops). The Train moved with the Division. In all, there were 364 Army Service Corps (later Royal Army Service Corps) Companies of this type. The 37th Divisional Train, ASC/RASC was comprised of the 288, Train No. 1 (H.Q.) Company (H.T.). 289, Train No. 2 Company (H.T.). 290, Train No. 3 Company (H.T.), and the 291, Train No. 4 Company (H.T). Formed on Thursday 6 May 1915 and disbanded between Friday 4 and Sunday 20 April 1919, the 37th Divisional Train, ASC/RASC served all of its existence on the Western Front. At the time of the Armistice on Monday 11 November 1918, the 37th Division was in the area of Le Quesnoy. After moving back to the Béthencourt-Caudry, Nord, France area, it moved forward on Sunday 1 December 1918 to Charleroi. By Friday 20 December 1918 units were billeted between Charleroi and the Maubeuge-Nivelles road, on the French and Belgian border. Demobilisation began on Thursday 26 December 1918 and by Tuesday 25 March 1919, the former 37th Division officially ceased to exist.



EVERITT, FRANK EDWARD. Second Lieutenant.

1st Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F.

Died Thursday 20 July 1916. Aged 22.

Born Alton, Hampshire.

Son of James and Kate Agnes Everitt of 4, Moreton Road, South Croydon, Surrey.

Buried Albert Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. J. 11.

On the Sandwich civic war memorial, Frank is commemorated with his surname spelt EVERETT, as opposed to EVERITT. He is commemorated on the Sandwich, St. Mary's parish church Great War memorial plaque with his surname spelt correctly, as is also the case on the Australian National War Memorial.

At the time of the 1901 census the Everitt family resided next door to the Post Office at the High Street, Alton, Hampshire. Head of the house was Frank's father 49 year old Brighton, Sussex native James Everitt, a retired Bank Clerk who was a Professor of Music. Frank was educated at the Grammar School, Farnham, Surrey; and he later studied at Moona College, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. At the time of his army enlistment on Wednesday 7 July 1915 as a Second Lieutenant, Frank was continuing his studies as a Theology Student at Moore College, Newtown, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Following his army training, Frank embarked from Sydney, New South Wales, with his unit onboard the 12,129 ton ship R.M.S. Osterley on Saturday 15 January 1916, in the 1st Battalion, 14th Reinforcement. At the time of his enlistment, and when he was mortally wounded during his battalions' involvement in the Pozières Sector during the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' Frank's family resided at Bank House, Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent. Frank's battalion which was part of the 1st Brigade, was the first infantry unit recruited for the Australian Imperial Force in New South Wales, during the Great War. The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Egypt, arriving on Wednesday 2 December. The battalion took part in the ANZAC landing on Sunday 25 April 1915 as part of the second and third waves, and served there until the evacuation in December. Its most notable engagement at Gallipoli was the battle of Lone Pine in August. Two members of the battalion, Captain A. J. Shout and Lieutenant L.M. Keysor were awarded Victoria Crosses for their valour at Lone Pine, sadly in the case of Captain Shout his was a posthumous award. After the withdrawal from Gallipoli in December 1915, the battalion returned to Egypt. In March 1916, it sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army, principally in the Somme Valley in France and around Ypres in Belgium. At Bullecourt in May 1917, Corporal G. J. Howell became the third member of the battalion to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion participated in the battle of Amiens on Thursday 8 August 1918. During the Great War, Frank's battalion was known to have suffered at least 3528 casualties, with 1165 of its members killed and 2363 wounded.

HEWITT, WILLIAM WALTER. Rifleman, 593370.

"C" Company, 1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). 141st Brigade, 47th Division.

Died Friday 5 April 1918. Aged 26.

Born Faversham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Sarah Annie Hewett of Portland House, 67, Lower Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent, and of the late James F. Hewett.

Buried Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.

Grave Ref: I. J. 1.

Formerly Private, 4552, 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and Private, 6148, 1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). William's battalion transferred to the Territorial Force in 1908 titled the 18th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (London Irish Rifles). During the Great War, the London Irish raised three battalions and the 1st Battalion went to France in March 1915 as part of the 141st Brigade, 47th (2nd London) Division. It saw its first action in May at Festubert. In September 1915, at the Battle of Loos, the 1st Battalion distinguished itself by the capture of enemy trenches led by the Captain of the football team, Sergeant Frank Edwards who took his football and kicked it towards the enemy trenches. Other members of the battalion then joined Frank Edwards in his 'football game' and, despite intense enemy gun fire, the ball was kicked across No Man's Land, until it was finally booted into the German trenches followed by surviving members of the impromptu football team. In a desperate and bloody battle, the London Irish captured and held their objective. The football itself is still preserved in the Regimental Museum, Connaught House, 4, Flodden Road, Camberwell, London, SE5 9LL, and the memory of Sergeant Edwards 'The Footballer of Loos' is commemorated on every year on Loos Sunday. At the commencement of April 1918, William's battalion was in the Divisional Reserve at Senlis-le-Sec to the north east of the town of Albert on the Somme. On Saturday 4 April the battalion made a short move to the east, crossing where the D938 (Route de Doullens) now runs, and went to the village of Bouzincourt under orders of 140th Infantry Brigade. The 1st/18th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles), remained at Bouzincourt until being relieved on Tuesday 7 April, by the officers and other ranks of the 21st (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles), when William's battalion returned to Senlis-le-Sec. Fortunately only three other ranks were killed in action during the four days that William's battalion was at Bouzincourt, two of the deaths occurred on the last day there. Although Rifleman Harry Nandrett from Lewisham, Kent, died of wounds as William, Harry died whilst a prisoner of war and is at rest at the city cemetery at Robermont, Liege, Belgium, which was used for the burial of Allied prisoners of war and now contains French, Belgian, Italian, Russian and Commonwealth war graves plots. The Commonwealth plot contains 48 burials of the Great War, and one from the Second World War.

JONES, A. No clear trace. Arguably the best match for this casualty is the following Kent soldier who enlisted, and also probably resided at Sandwich, Kent.

JONES, ARCHIBALD STANLEY. Private, 13470.

2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division.

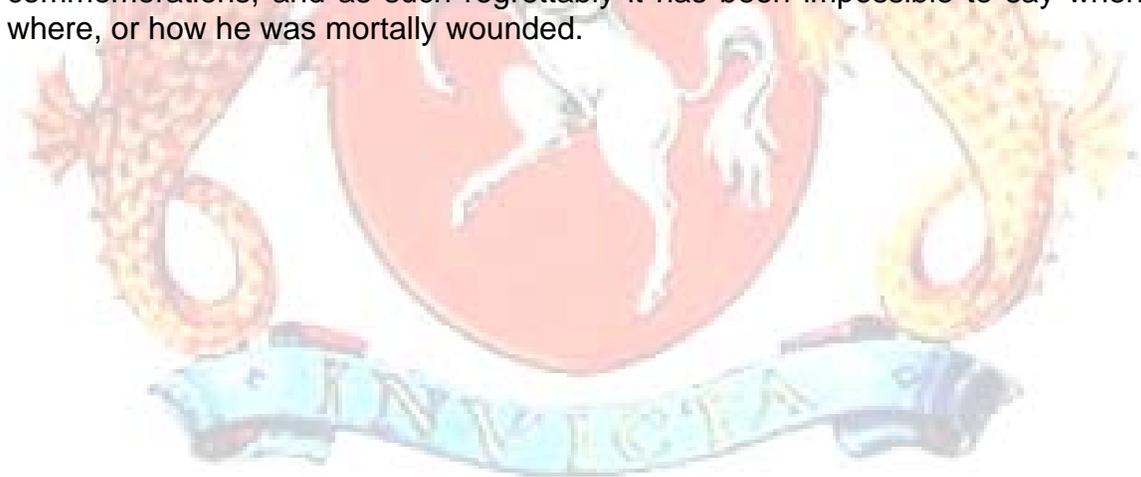
Died Wednesday 4 November 1914.

Born Dover, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Alfred James Jones and Elizabeth Ann Jones (née Todd).

Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: III. B.

Probably Archibald is also the casualty who is commemorated on the Sandwich civic war memorial as A. JONES. Archibald's place of birth as shown above was extracted from his SDGW entry, but the 1901 census enumerator recorded him as being an 11 year old native of Elham, Kent. Head of the house was recorded as being 41 year old Sandwich native Alfred James Jones, who was employed as a Cattle Stockman. At the commencement of the Great War, Archibald's battalion was commanded by 46 year old Second Boer War hero Lieutenant Colonel Noel A.L. Corry, D.S.O., and was at Wellington Barracks, London, in the 4th (Guards) Brigade, 2nd Division. On 12 August 1914 the battalion left by train from Nine Elms for the port of Southampton, and from there sailed on the Cawdor Castle to Harve, France, where it arrived the following day. As was applicable to all the battalions of the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front during 1914, the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards also had its fair share of mixtures and successes, which in turn resulted in the overall ebb and flow of the opposing armies positions. By the time that Archibald died of his wounds in one of the hospitals at Boulogne-ser-Mer, Pas de Calais, France, on Wednesday 4 November 1914 his battalion was fighting in Belgium. As Archibald's service papers (if they still exist), have not been sighted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and as such regrettably it has been impossible to say when, where, or how he was mortally wounded.



JONES, ERNEST EDWARD. Serjeant, 8278.

2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

5th Brigade, 2nd Division.

Died Wednesday 21 October 1914. Aged 23.

Born and resided Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Son of Richard and Ellen Jones of 5, Cottage Row, Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 37.

At the time of the 1901 census the Jones family resided at Guildcourt Lane, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 59 year old Richard Jones who was employed as a Shepherd. Richard, his wife Ellen and their eight children who were at home on the night of the census were all natives of Sandwich, Kent, including Ernest and his brother Walter who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. At the commencement of the Great War, Ernest's battalion was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel H.R. Davis, and was stationed at Albuhera Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire, in the 5th Brigade, 2nd Division. Prior to leaving for the Western Front, Second Lieutenants F. Pepys, A.H. Barrington-Kennett, and F.W.C. Chippindale took the Colours from Aldershot to the Regimental Depot of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, at Cowley Barracks on 5 August 1914. Exactly a week after the Colours had been taken to Oxford for safe keeping, Ernest's battalion had the honour of being inspected by His Majesty the King, prior to leaving Aldershot the following day and going by train to Southampton. At Southampton the battalion embarked on the SS Lake Michigan, and sailed for Boulogne-ser-Mer, Pas de Calais, France, at 2000 hours, where it arrived at about 1430 hours the next day. By the time that Ernest was killed in action his battalion was in Belgium. Having relieved the 254th French Regiment during the night of 13 October 1914, the 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry had marched via Soupir and Mard Vauxcéré, and during the afternoon of the following day had reached Fismes, from where it had travelled by train to Hazebrouck, via Amiens, Boulogne, Calais, and St. Omer. Ernest's battalion arrived at Hazebrouck at 2330 hours on 15 October 1914, and then marched to billets at Morbecque. Another move was made to Godewaersvelde two days later, via Hazebrouck and Steenvoorde, from where the battalion went to Poperinghe on 19 October 1914. Via Elverdinghe, the battalion moved forward to occupy trenches near Pilckem the day after it had arrived at Poperinghe. On the day that Ernest was killed in action, his battalion had formed up on the Langemarck-Zonnebeke road, with its left flank on the Lekkerboterbeek, 'C' and 'D' Companies in the front line and with 'A' and 'B' Companies in support of them. When the battalion moved forward on the attack, they did so under heavy artillery fire, and were held up just short of the Haanebeek (Lekkerboterbeek) stream, by a low hedge which had been interwoven with German barbed wire. When the problem hedge was encountered with men being hit during the hold up, it was not really surprising that several members of the leading companies of the battalion succumbed to the temptation of trying to pass through an open gate in the hedge. In his excellent book 'The First Seven Divisions' by Lord Ernest Hamilton, he makes mention of the fact that every officer and other rank who attempted to pas through the gate "was mown

down by machine gun fire.” The attack which cost Ernest his life was also held up by enflade fire from the left, with enemy trenches some 300 yards ahead near Langemarck. Lieutenant Colonel H.R. Davis recorded that he reached a farm on the St. Julien-Poelcappelle road, which subsequently became known as “New House.” He also put on record the battalion had had its “first big fight,” the men had “advanced splendidly,” officers and NCO’s doing their duty “magnificently.” By the end of the day it was found that 5 officers had fallen, and another 6 had been wounded, one of which later died of his wounds. In addition to the officer casualties, 61 other ranks had also died, and 143 had been wounded, some of who later succumbed to their wounds, in addition to which three other ranks were posted as missing, believed killed, when the 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, had had its “first big fight” of the Great War.



JONES, WALTER LEWIS RICHARD. Private, G/6403.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). 85th Brigade, 28th Division.

Died Monday 29 October 1917. Aged 29

Born, enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Richard and Ellen Jones of 5, Cottage Row, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Struma Military Cemetery, Kalokastron, Greece. Grave Ref: V. F. 9.

Please see additional family details at the brief commemoration of Walter's brother Ernest above. As a battalion of the 85th Brigade, 28th Division, the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was sent from the Western Front to Salonika via Egypt, in the joint Anglo-French force that was dispatched to help Greece against Bulgaria, and which then remained in the area, reinforced by Serbian forces until the cessation of the hostilities. In September 1915, with fears growing regarding Bulgaria's true intentions, the Greek government had formal requests for assistance primarily in the form of 150,000 additional troops, to the British and French governments. As the result of the help then offered to Greece, on Thursday 21 October 1915 the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) received orders to entrain for the port of Marseilles the next day. On Friday 22 October the battalion marched from Fouquereuil near Bethune to leave by train for Marseilles, and arrived at the port at 1330 hours on Sunday 24 October. With commendable speed all of the officers and other ranks of the battalion, vehicles, animals, equipment, and stores etcetera had embarked on the troopship Transylvania only two and a half hours after arriving at Marseilles. Less than a week after leaving France, the troopship arrived at Alexandria, Egypt, at which time the battalion numbered 27 officers and 907 other ranks. A not insignificant number of the battalion personnel at that time were soldiers who had been amongst the drafts which had been sent to the battalion shortly before leaving France. During its nine months spent on the Western Front prior to leaving from Marseilles, the battalion had 101 officers, and 3,738 other ranks serve in it, during which time it suffered 22 officer and 298 other ranks deaths, plus 34 officers and 1,011 other ranks wounded, 5 officers and 199 other ranks captured, plus 2 officers and 297 posted as missing. As Walter had a regimental number indicative of a New Army member of his regiment, as opposed to having been one of the regular soldiers that his battalion had originally been comprised of, it would seem likely that he had been amongst one of the drafts that had been sent to France. Although a number of authors have made comments along the lines that the troops at Salonika had it easy, their train of thought is somewhat disingenuous, whilst compared to the events, and casualties suffered by all of the combatant nations throughout the Great War in Europe. Allied troops killed in action whilst serving in the "Army of the East" numbered less than 20,000, but in addition to which, a staggering number of men and women contracted diseases, prominent amongst which was malaria. Approximately 450,000 victims of malaria were invalided out of the Balkan area of operations by the end of 1918, and it is noticeable that of the just over million men committed to serve in the area post October 1915, resulted in excess of 1.3 million hospital cases. When noting Walter's place of burial, the transcribers initial thought was that he had died of disease, but upon carrying out more research it was found that Walter had been

killed in action. In mid October 1917 Walter's battalion moved to Nevolyen from Turbes, where it had been involved in maintaining defences on the right bank of the Struma river, in an area around the Orljak bridge. The 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was ordered to hold a line on the left bank of the Struma, stretching from Nevolyen to Jenikoj, during which time no opposition was encountered. It was about this time that their was established 'Enterprise Companies,' which were relieved of all manual work, and was kept apart and engaged on patrols and minor engagements etcetera, and virtually all of the 85th Brigade personnel took part in the 'Enterprise Companies.' It was whilst he was engaged on one the patrols that Walter was killed. About fifty Bulgar cavalrymen and thirty infantrymen were seen to enter Prosenik by Buffs scouts led by Serjeant Rand. During the skirmish which ensued, Serjeant Rand's small party was eventually forced to withdraw in the face of a vastly numerically superior force. Although the patrol managed to evacuate safely, one man was killed, one wounded, and another was missing, the dead man being Private Walter Jones.



KENDALL, JAMES. Lance Corporal, G/6153.

1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). 16th Brigade, 6th Division.

Died Sunday 18 March 1917. Aged 26.

Born Ash, Kent. Enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of James and Frances Maria Kendall (née Court) of 1, Church Street, St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. P. 12.

It would seem likely that the S.J. KENDALL, who commemorated on the Sandwich civic war memorial is probably the above local casualty James Kendall, but no data has been accessed whilst researching which records James with any additional initial. James was probably a brother of Percy William Kendall who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. At the time of the 1901 census the Kendall family resided at The Butts, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Ash, Kent native, James Kendall (senior) who was employed as a Market Gardner. In addition to James (junior) there was another son, 19 year old Percy Kendall employed in the Tan Yard, who appears to be the next casualty below. At the start of March 1917, the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) had its headquarters located at the village of Loos-en-Goethe where the costly battle had taken place two years earlier. The bulk of the other soldiers in the battalion occupied trenches near to Loos-en-Goethe, during which time casualties of different categories continued to mount on an almost daily basis. On Sunday 18 March 1917, the German's carried out a well organised raid on the trenches being held by James's battalion, and eventually managed to secure a footing in them. Shortly after managing to enter the trenches, the enemy soldiers were successfully ejected from them, at the cost of 7 of their number, in addition to several men having suffered woundings. Regretably during the attack, the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) also suffered casualties in the form of the death of Second Lieutenant Harold Milford Norsworthy, and 10 other ranks, one of whom was James. An officer and 24 other ranks were wounded, in addition to which 8 others were posted as missing on the day that James lost his life. The events of Sunday 18 March 1917 resulted in what amounted to a retaliatory raid being undertaken by the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on the last day of March 1917, which was led by Captain (later Major M.C.) Bernard L. Strauss assisted by three Second Lieutenants, plus 100 other ranks of the battalion. During the raid on the German front and support works resulted in the capture of a prisoner, and several pieces of equipment. One of the officers engaged on the raid Second Lieutenant Percy W.T. Davis was originally posted as missing, but was later found to have fallen during the raid. Four other ranks were killed during the raid, and amongst a number of others who were wounded, four later succumbed to their wounds, as did some of those who had been reported as missing, and the total of other ranks deaths was recorded as being 11, which was in stark contrast to the enemy as their dead was estimated to number about 200.

KENDALL, PERCY WILLIAM. Private, G/22259.

6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.

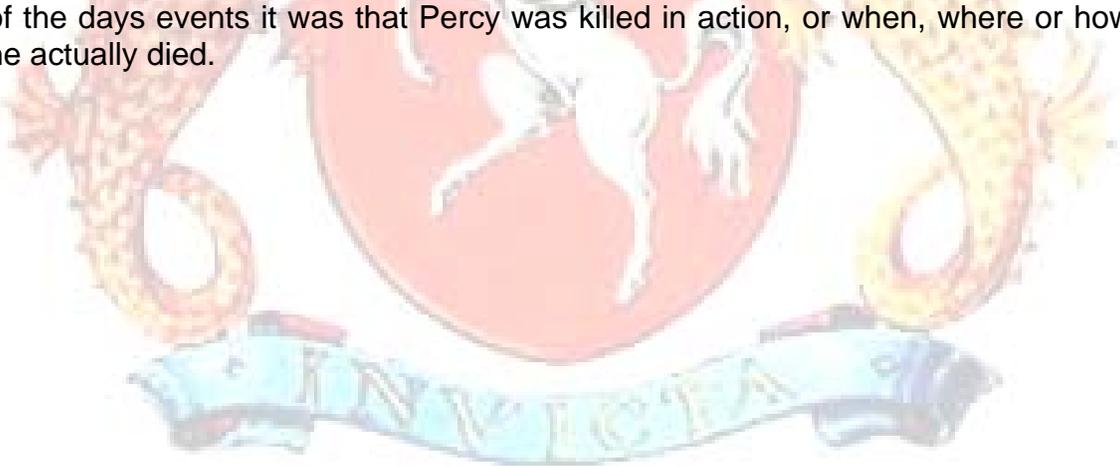
Died Friday 30 November 1917.

Born Ash, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France. Panel 3, and on The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment War Memorial which is located in the north wall of Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, Surrey, which houses the Book of Remembrance which lists approximately 8000 officers and other ranks who gave their lives during the Great War.

Please also see the additional comments at the end of the brief commemoration of James Kendall above. On Tuesday 27 November 1917 a considerable amount of movement amongst the Germans was observed by various sources, opposite Villiers Guislain near Honnecourt, which was being held by the 55th Division. Throughout the following day the German movements continued, and due to the fact that the 55th (West Lancashire) Division commanded by Major-General Sir H. Jeudwine, was holding an extended front, it was weak as the consequence of same. As fears mounted with likelihood of an imminent attack by the enemy, Major-General A.B. Scott, commanding the 12th (Eastern) Division, and Major-General Sir H. Jeudwine, met on the afternoon of Thursday 29 November to consider the position and to agree to what plan of action to take using what troops and equipment that they had at their disposal. Resultant of the two Divisional Commanders meeting, reserve machine guns were placed to cover Villiers Guislain; and at the same time the Commanding Officer of Percy's battalion, Lieutenant Colonel N.T. Rolls, and that of the 11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel T.S. Wollocombe, were both informed of the virtual certainty of an enemy attack, and were ordered to carry out reconnoiters of the ground between Vaucellette Farm and the village of Gonnellieu as soon as possible. Warning orders were issued by the 12th (Eastern) Division, re the buildup of enemy troops, and of the probable reason for it happening. As a sensible precaution, four 18 pounder artillery batteries were directed to carry out harassing fire on Honnecourt of two hours duration, commencing at 0500 hours on Friday 30 November, and as such the attack mounted by the Germans on the day that Percy was killed on action was not a surprise. At the cessation of the British 18 pounders firing, their opposite numbers on the enemy sided then started firing, which had included the heavy shelling of the brigade situated on the left flank of the 55th (West Lancashire) Division. With losses of men mounting and structural damage being caused where the left flank of the 55th Division was situated, Percy's battalion, and the 11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment were promptly ordered to stand to, in preparation of being sent to reinforce where and when necessary. Unfortunately as was sometimes the case during the Great War (and others), communications quickly became a problem on Friday 30 November, which resulted in Divisional Headquarters and Brigade Headquarters losing touch with their battalions, for a period of approximately three quarters of an hours duration from 0700 hours until 0745 hours. A message did manage to eventually get

through from the 55th (West Lancashire) Division to the 12th (Eastern) Division, which contained the unwelcome information that the enemy had started advancing from their trenches. In response to the message from the 55th (West Lancashire) Division, at 0845 hours the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) was ordered to Vaucellette Farm. Approximately half an hour after Percy's battalion was sent to Vaucellette Farm, the 11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment was ordered to Quentin Mill, it being in response that the enemy were in Villiers Guislain. Having already been stood to, it was only about twenty minutes after the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) was ordered to Vaucellette Farm that the move got under way. Upon reaching Vaucellette Farm, which had been and continued to be shelled by German artillery, Percy's battalion found that it was being held by only a small party of personnel of the Loyal, North Lancashire Regiment, 55th (West Lancashire) Division. Following its arrival at Vaucellette Farm, the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) established contact with the 11th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment on the left of Percy's battalion, and with other details of other 12th (Eastern) Division troops on its right. Percy's battalion was soon engaged in a number of separate actions, which had included the farm being garrisoned by five platoons, which were commanded by Captain A.L. Parish. Shortly after Captain Parish had distributed his men, an attack on the farm was mounted by enemy troops which was successfully repulsed. Seven platoons were ordered to occupy Chapel Hill to the north east of Vaucellette Farm, leaving a company in support, at which time the enemy was holding the Sugar Beet Factory, Chapel Crossing and Gauche Wood. As Friday 30 November 1917 wore on, the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) was engaged in a number of engagements with the German infantry. It has not been possible to add here exactly at what stage of the days events it was that Percy was killed in action, or when, where or how he actually died.



KIDD, ARTHUR GEORGE. Sapper, 1687.

941st Field Company, Royal Engineers.

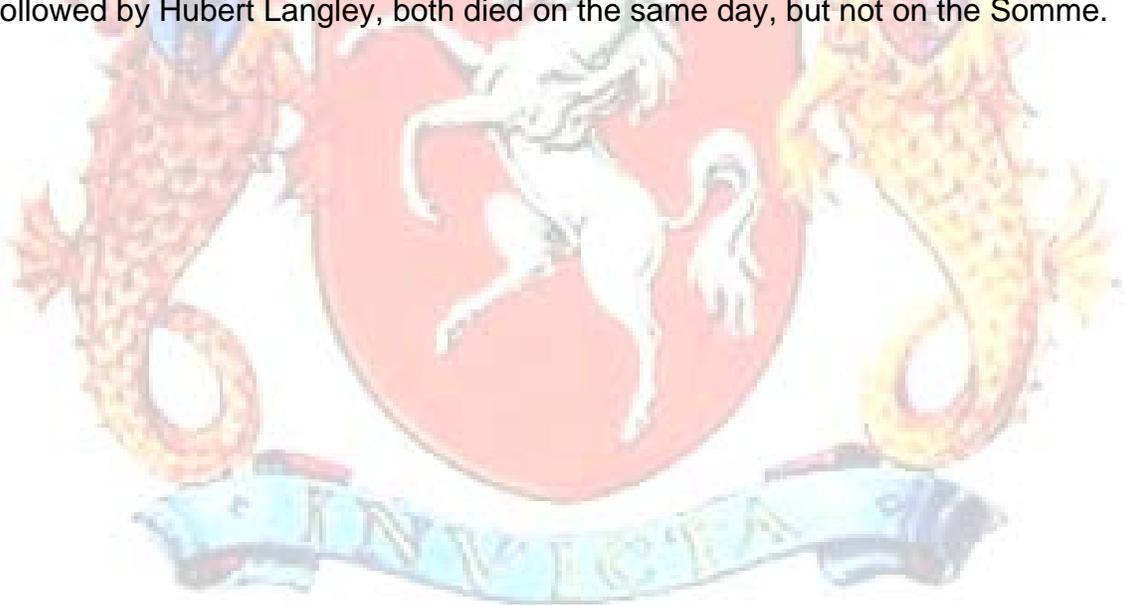
Died Saturday 1 July 1916. Aged 37.

Born Sydenham, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.

Only son of George and Harriet Kidd.

Buried Wailly Orchard Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: I. C. 10.

At the time of the 1901 census the Kidd family resided at Gladstone Road, Farnborough, Kent. Head of the house was 54 year old Rye, Sussex native George Kidd. Arthur was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 22 year old Coach Painter. On a number of occasions over the last fifty years or so, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has been told on a number of occasions during casual conversations with people, that a relatives of theirs had been killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, and of course most of them where telling the truth. Why mention is made of the past conversations, is that sometimes a chance remark made by somebody does not quiet 'ring true' for a variety of reasons, which includes 'facts' about a relative who lost his life whilst serving in a unit that did not take part in the events in the Somme area on Saturday 1 July 1916, including people that were not in the France and Belgium theatre of the Great War. It would probably be fair to assume that nobody had purposely lied about the 'Somme' deaths, but were simply repeating what they had been told, and which in a number of instances, what had become family lore was simply being repeated. For no other reason than the fact that the St. Mary's church memorial plaque is set out in alphabetical surname order, Arthur Kidd is followed by Hubert Langley, both died on the same day, but not on the Somme.



LANGLEY, HUBERT JOHN. Private, G/11528.

"A" Company, 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). 123rd Brigade, 41st Division.

Died Saturday 1 July 1916. Aged 21.

Born Worth, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent.

Son of John and Sarah Ann Langley of 33, Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Tancrez Farm Cemetery, Ploegsteert, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Ref: I. H. 33.

At the time of the 1901 census the Langley family resided at The Butchery, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was Journeyman Carpenter, John Ann Langley who was aged 37 and was a native of Sandwich. Hubert's SDGW entry incorrectly records him with the Christian name Herbert. The 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). One of the questions that the transcriber has been asked on a number of occasions over the years, mainly by relatives of men who served and/or died serving in the 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), was why was the battalion called the "Kent County," and some of their suppositions of same have on occasions been somewhat fanciful. The battalion was raised at Maidstone the county town of Kent on 3 May 1915 by Lord Harris, Vice Lieutenant of Kent at the request of the Army Council. Lord Harris's request from the Army Council in early 1915 had not in fact been for another infantry battalion, as the Army Council asked him to appeal to various local government bodies within the county of Kent, for assistance in recruiting a brigade of artillery, which as far as was possible was to be found by different towns and villages in Kent. Ultimately the various government bodies which were contacted by Lord Harris did not feel able to undertake the request from the Army Council, but put forward an alternative suggestion that they raised an infantry battalion on a county wide basis, much along the lines of the request for a brigade of artillery. Contained in the reply to the Army Council, was also the suggestion that Colonel A. Wood Martyn, the Secretary of the Kent Territorial Association, who was a former officer of the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), should be given command of the new battalion. Another of the suggestions that as the battalion was to be raised on a county wide basis included east Kent, the traditional recruiting area of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), that the battalion should include (Kent County) as part of its official title, a suggestion which the Army Council agreed to. It was actually Colonel A. Wood Martyn who undertook by far and away most of the actual recruiting, as opposed to much input to same by the various local councils. Colonel A. Wood Martyn toured extensively around Kent, making speeches from his car, and was assisted by a band which used his own instruments; the musicians in the band came all the way from Blackpool, Lancashire, as none were available in Kent at that time. Captain C.V. Molony of the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), was back in England recovering from his wounds inflicted whilst fighting on the Ypres Salient in Belgium, and he was made second-in-command of the new battalion and promoted to the rank of Major. After the Great War, Major Molony authored the superb book "Invicta" with

the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) in the Great War, which was published in 1923 by Nisbit and Co. Ltd. Amongst the many locations visited by Colonel A. Wood Martyn during his personal recruiting drives (no pun intended), had been Sandwich, Kent where Hubert enlisted, possibly on the same day that the Colonel was in the town. Most of the 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) initial early training of its recruits was carried out at Penenden Heath near Maidstone, prior to being billeted at Maidstone on 1 November 1915. When first formed, the battalion was assigned to the 118th Brigade, 39th Division, before becoming part of the 123rd Brigade, 41st Division during October 1915. Hubert's battalion was later taken over by the War Office, and in January 1916 went to Wellington Lines, Aldershot, Hampshire. It was as part of the 123rd Brigade, 41st Division in the Second Army that the Hubert's battalion went to France on 4 May 1916, by which time Major Molony had returned to the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the post of second-in-command of Hubert's battalion had passed to Major W.F. Soames. On the battalions' arrival in France, Captain S.H. Beattie joined it and was placed in command of "A" Company, which Hubert served in. After three weeks of additional training in May 1916, which was carried out in the area around Moolenacker, near Stranzeele, the 41st Division relieved the 9th Division in trenches which were located between Armentières and Ploegsteert. Although the 41st Division remained in the Armentières and Ploegsteert area for almost three months, it was engaged in very few engagements with enemy forces, save for a number of fairly minor trench raids being carried out by both sides. Casualties numbering in excess of 130 of different types were inflicted on the 10th (Kent County) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) during that three month period; some were resultant of the trench raids and other when being subjected to intermittent enemy artillery bombardments, some of which were at various times heavy. Five officer casualties occurred during the three month period that was spent in the Armentières and Ploegsteert area, including Captain Robert L. Pillman who was mortally wounded on 8 June 1916, and succumbed to his wounds the following day. On Saturday 1 July 1916, when Hubert died he was one of seven other ranks in his battalion.



MacNALLY, CHARLES FREDERICK. Rifleman, 4022.

4th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade. 80th Brigade, 27th Division.

Died Thursday 15 July 1915.

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

Buried Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.

Grave Ref: II. F. 20.

Charles's medal card entry records that he entered the French war theatre on 20 December 1914, and that he was killed in action on 15 July 1915. At the commencement of the Great War, the 4th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade was at Dagshai, India, and remained in India until October 1914 when the battalion left Bombay for England. The battalion, which doubtless would have had Charles on its strength arrived at Devonport on Thursday 19 November 1914. From Devonport a move was made to Magdalen Camp, Winchester, Hampshire. The stay back in England was of necessity of only a month's duration, and on Sunday 20 December 1914, 27 officers and 921 other ranks of the battalion embarked on the SS Austerlind, and sailed for Harve, France the following day. Whilst in no way wishing to court controversy, but the transcriber of these brief commemorations has noticed over the last fifty plus years, that arguably the Great War casualties of the Rifle Brigade have been amongst the easiest to research. "The History of the Rifle Brigade in the War of 1914-1918," Volume 1 (1914-1918), was written by Reginald Berkeley M.C., and published in 1927 by Butler & Tanner Ltd, on behalf of the Rifle Brigade Club. Volume 2 (1917-1918) was written by William W. Seymour, and was published by the same firm in 1936, in addition to which is an excellent appendix which lists all gallantry award recipients. In addition to the above, are a series called "The Rifle Brigade Chronicle" which records events etcetera on a yearly basis over several years, which again are also arguably the best of their type for any regiment or corps. Despite checking each of the above relevant publications, it has not been possible to ascertain thus far where, when, or how Charles lost his life, which would appear to have probably been as the result of a minor action, as when checking SDGW he is recorded as being the sole death in the 4th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade, and his entry shows him as having been killed in action. It is well known that when checked against other more reliable record sources, that for a whole host of reasons SDGW is found to contain thousands of different errors, and as such due to the fact that the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not personally sighted Charles's death certificate (which also might not be accurate), or any other supporting documentation, it is possible that 'killed in action' might be erroneous, but his death might of course be as the result of sniper or enemy artillery activity. Unfortunately it has also not been possible thus far to positively identify his parents for inclusion here.



MAY, GODFREY JAMES. Able Seaman, J/25663.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Calypso."

Died Friday 30 November 1917. Aged 21.

Born Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent 1 March 1896.

Son of Thomas George and Julia May of Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 21.

At the time of the 1901 census the May family resided at Water Farm, Stourmouth, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 28 year old Ash, Kent native Thomas George who was employed as a Carter on a farm. Prior to joining the Royal Navy Godfrey had been employed as a Labourer, he enlisted in the Royal Navy at Chatham, Kent as a Boy, on a 12 year engagement on 17 March 1911. The 'J' prefix on Godfrey's official number as shown above is indicative of his Junior enlistment status. Godfrey carried out his basic training at H.M.S. Vivid which was the Royal Naval Barracks at Keyham, Plymouth, Devon. As a Boy Second Class, after leaving H.M.S. Vivid on completion of his training, Godfrey joined H.M.S. Prince Of Wales on 19 October 1913, she was a battleship of the 'Queen' class, built at Chatham, Kent, and launched in March 1902, and completed in March 1904. The 'Queen' class battleships were very similar to the 'Formidable' and 'London' classes, and had a ships complement of 714 officers and ratings. On 28 October 1913 only shortly after joining the battleship, Godfrey's rating was raised to a Boy First Class. H.M.S. Prince Of Wales had served with the Mediterranean Fleet until February 1909, when she transferred to the Atlantic Fleet as Flagship. In May 1912 she joined the Home Fleet, and on the outbreak of war in August 1914 was assigned to the Channel Fleet's 5th Battle Squadron as Flagship, by which time Godfrey had both rejoined the ship, and left it having spent a short time onboard the 15,000 ton H.M.S. Venerable which was a 'London' class pre dreadnought battleship. On his return to H.M.S. Prince Of Wales, Godfrey's service as a Boy finished and he became an Ordinary Seaman. Although Godfrey had rejoined H.M.S. Prince Of Wales, at the time that she had been assigned to the Channel Fleet's 5th Battle Squadron as a Flagship, he was serving on the 3,500 ton light cruiser H.M.S. Aruthusa, having joined her from the Chatham naval barracks H.M.S. Pembroke a week after the commencement of the Great War. H.M.S. Arethusa was the name ship of the 'Arethusa' class of light cruisers, and was laid down at Chatham Dockyard in October 1912, launched on 25 October 1913, and commissioned in August 1914 as flotilla leader for the Harwich Destroyer flotillas. It would appear when viewing the combinations of the above dates appertaining to Geoffrey's service at H.M.S. Pembroke, and H.M.S. Arethusa, it would seem to indicate that Godfrey had been amongst commissioning crew of H.M.S. Arethusa. On 28 August 1914 H.M.S. Arethusa fought at the Battle of Heligoland Bight, flying the flag of Commodore Reginald Tyrwhitt. She was seriously damaged by the German cruisers S.M.S. Frauenlob and S.M.S. Stettin and had to be towed home. On 25 December 1914 she took part in the Cuxhaven Raid, and on 24 January 1915 she fought at the Battle of Dogger Bank. On 1 April 1915 Godfrey's rating was

raised to that of Able Seaman. Later in 1915 H.M.S. Arethusa was transferred to the 5th Light Cruiser squadron of the Harwich force, and in September 1915 she captured four German trawlers. Following more time spent at H.M.S. Pembroke, Chatham, Godfrey joined H.M.S. Duncan on 20 July 1915, it being the day after she recommissioned at Chatham, and was attached to the 9th Cruiser Squadron on the Finistère-Azores-Madeira Station; Godfrey served on her until 20 December 1915. H.M.S. Duncan was the 13,745 ton lead ship of the six-ship Duncan class of Royal Navy pre dreadnought battleships, and was laid down by Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company, Blackwall, on 10 July 1899, launched on 21 March 1901, and completed in October 1903. Following a few weeks serving on the Merchant Fleet Auxiliary vessel 'Maganita,' Godfrey rejoined H.M.S. Duncan on 11 April 1916, and served on her for another fourteen months, before returning to H.M.S. Pembroke on 11 April 1917. When viewing Godfrey's record of service in the Royal Navy, it was noted that he had on a number of occasions either been amongst an original commissioning crew of a ship, or joined others immediately following a complete refit of a ship, and was also applicable to his last ship H.M.S. Calypso. The 4,130 ton H.M.S. Calypso was built by Hawthorn Leslie & Co. of Hebburn-on-Tyne, and laid down on 7 February 1916, she was launched on 24 January 1917 and completed June 1917. H.M.S. Calypso joined the 6th Light cruiser squadron in June 1917, and on 17 November 1917 took part in the Heligoland Bight engagement when the entire bridge personnel including the commanding officer were all killed by a shell. In November 1918 she was sent to the Baltic and it was whilst so engaged that Godfrey was lost overboard from H.M.S. Calypso and was drowned. A board of enquiry later came to the conclusion he was "Accidentally Drowned," and that nobody was to blame for his death at sea. A month after Geoffrey's death, H.M.S. Calypso along with H.M.S. Caradoc and the destroyers H.M.S. Vendetta, H.M.S. Vortigern and H.M.S. Wakefull captured the Bolshevik Destroyers Avtroil and Spartak on Boxing Day 1918. During the Second World War H.M.S. Calypso served in the Home Fleet 1939 and in the Mediterranean Fleet in 1940. She was torpedoed and sunk on 12 June 1940 by the Italian Regina Marina Submarine Bagnolini which was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Franco Tosoni-Pittoni, approximately 45 nautical miles south of Kania Island, Greece. The commander of H.M.S. Calypso 43 year old Captain Henry A. Rowley D.S.O., R.N. survived the sinking but was lost with H.M.S. Gloucester on 22 May 1941 when enemy dive-bombers destroyed H.M.S. Gloucester and the new cruiser H.M.S. Fiji on the same day.



PAY, JOHN JAMES. Private, G/199.

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

37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.

Died Wednesday 23 February 1916.

Born and enlisted Ash, Kent. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panels 15 to 19.

John's medal index card entry records that he entered the French war theatre on 1 June 1915, and that he was killed in action on 23 February 1916. From 10 December 1915, the 12th (Eastern) Division had served in the Givenchy sector with its headquarters located at Bethune, having relieved the 33rd Division there. Several commentators have made very similar comments and references about the appalling conditions which were endured by the front lines troops in the area at that time, where most of the casualties were resultant of illness as opposed to the activities of the enemy. On the night of 18/19 January the 12th (Eastern) Division was relieved by the 2nd Division and back to the reserve area near Busnes. During the time spent in the reserve area, whilst some time was spent playing sports and relaxing, but wisely training was still carried out, notably in the art of open warfare. Eventually the 12th (Eastern) Division was sent back to the front, the 36th Brigade being the first to go into the line on the night of 12/13 February 1916, to occupy positions in the vicinity of the Quarries in the Loos area. By 15 February 1916 the 12th (Eastern) Division, with its headquarters at Saily la Bourse, had relieved the Dismounted Cavalry Division, and held the line from the Quarries to the north of the Hohenzollen Redoubt which had cost John's battalion dear the previous October, and it was effectively virtually the same area that the 12th (Eastern) Division had handed over in November 1915. Over the next three months the 12th (Eastern) Division endured what a number of regimental historians and the like, have described as being the most arduous and/or intense of the Great War. In addition to the officers and other ranks who died as the result of shelling and German small arms fire, plus the extensive use of the heavy minenwerfers (mine-throwers), many men lost their lives due to the weather and the resultant ground conditions, which meant that for a lot of the time that was spent actually in the trenches, they were waist deep in water, with several of them drowning in the mud. It was also a period and location where mines were blown by both sides night and day, with the British troops under orders to immediately occupy any mine-crater that had been made within sixty yards of their front lines positions, and in so doing deny their opponents the opportunity to put them to use as an extension of the German front line. John was one of six other ranks deaths in his battalion which occurred on Wednesday 23 February 1916, another being Nonington, Kent, native and resident Private Thomas James Pay who was a regular soldier. As is unfortunately the case with the vast majority of non officer deaths, it has not been possible to ascertain exactly John lost his life. Whilst there was a lot of mining activities being undertaken at the time of his demise, it would seem unlikely that John's death was as the result of same, because it has been noticed on numerous occasions whilst transcribing war memorials etcetera, that the number of deaths which resulted from mine detonation were normally quite substantial.

REYNOLDS, WILLIAM CECIL. Private, G/568.

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

37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.

Died Saturday 7 October 1916.

Born St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Sandwich, Kent. Resided St. Peter's, Sandwich, Kent.

Husband of Mary Elizabeth Reynolds (née Ellen) of 20, Church Street, St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent.

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

Place of birth as shown above was extracted from William's SDGW entry, but it was noted whilst checking the 1901 census entries, that on the night of the census, a 15 year old Tenterden, Kent native who was recorded by the census enumerator as William C. Reynolds, was residing with his parents William and Marilla Reynolds at Church Street, St. Mary's, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 50 year old Woodnesborough, Kent, native William Reynolds (senior), who was employed as a Labourer. William was probably amongst the 8 officers and 121 other ranks who lost their lives in his battalion on Saturday 7 October 1916 during the "Battle of the Transloy Ridges," the total casualty roll for the day numbers 368, which included the battalion Medical Officer, Captain Wilfred Pagen R.A.M.C, who is also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. What follows is basically the battalion War Diary entry for the day: - Quiet morning. At 1.30 p m the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire and shrapnel barrage on the front line. At 1.45 p m the attack commenced. Very heavy M.G. fire was opened, which held up 'C' Company on the right. 'A' and 'B' companies reached the 1st objective (Rainbow Trench) with fairly heavy casualties but on advancing from 1st to 2nd objectives were completely held up with M.G. fire. Twenty men of 'C' Company succeeded in getting into the German trench, with troops from the 61st Brigade, and advanced with them. The 1st objective was held until 12 midnight when the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

NB. The 6th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) was also like William's battalion part of the 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.



SIMMONS, EDGAR COOPER. Private, 451933.

341 Company, Canadian Forestry Corps.

Died Thursday 31 October 1918. Aged 32.

Born Sandwich, Kent 26 June 1887. Enlisted Niagara, Ontario, Canada.

Son of Alfred William and Ada Mary Ann Simmons (née Cooper) of Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Conches-en-Ouche Communal Cemetery, Eure, France Grave Ref: A. 6.

Edgar is also commemorated on page 500 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of the 1901 census the Simmons family resided at Bowling Street, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Sandwich native Alfred William Simmons, who was employed as a Builders Clerk, his 43 year old wife Ada was a native of Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, Kent. When Edgar enlisted in the Canadian army at Niagara on 30 June 1915, he stated that he was employed as a Teamster, and named his mother Mrs. Ada Mary Ann Simmons of Sandwich, Kent as his next of kin. Edgar was originally attested to the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. Although it has not been possible at the time of compiling these brief commemorations to ascertain same, it is possible that Edgar was a recipient of the French Croix de Guerre, as irrespective of rank, France awarded it to the members of the Canadian Forestry Corps who had been subjected to enemy artillery fire whilst serving in the corps in France. Unfortunately in much the same way that it has not been possible to establish if Edgar was a recipient of the French Croix de Guerre, it has also not been possible to find out when he was transferred from the infantry to serve in the Canadian Forestry Corps, but it would have been after Monday 14 February 1914 when the corps was formed. The Canadian Forestry Corps was formed as the result of an appeal from Great Britain for suitable troops to undertake lumber operations overseas. Not surprisingly over the years that the transcriber has been engaged in military research, it has been noticed that by far and away the vast majority of the personnel who served in the Canadian Forestry Corps, were employed as Lumberjacks or in some other forestry related occupation prior to enlisting in the army. By using the link which can be found on the website www.kentfallen.com to the excellent search engine that has been painstakingly compiled by Geoff Sullivan, it revealed that 414 deaths of members of the Canadian Forestry Corps are commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. By carrying out a number of quick non-selective random searches on the internet of the Attestation Papers of the personnel of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, they would seem to indicate that those pertaining to the members of the Canadian Forestry Corps, although almost certainly coincidental, they are amongst the most prolific of those which have already been added to the superb Canadian Government website.



SMITH, JOHN. Private, 40605.
Depot, Suffolk Regiment.
Died Monday 19 November 1917. Aged 33.
Born Minster, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of John and Emma Elizabeth Smith of 4, Hawthorn Cottages, Sandwich, Kent.
Buried Boatmans Hill Cemetery, Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, Kent.
Grave Ref: F. 14. "U".

A brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below. At the time of the 1901 census the Smith family resided at Sevenscore, Minster, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 49 year old Minster native John Smith (senior) who was a Cattle Yardman. John (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Apart from J.A. Clark commemorated on both the Sandwich civic war memorial, and the St. Mary's parish church memorial, whom it has not been possible to identify to within an acceptable level of probability, arguably the next most difficult has been J.SMITH. It is probably fair to say, that the combination of that initial and surname name is probably those which fill English family historians and the like with trepidation, but generally speaking, depending on what supporting data is available, the J.SMITH Great War casualties do not present the same problems as general family members. Although the transcriber of these brief commemorations is virtually certain (for a number of reasons) that the soldier at rest at Boatmans Hill Cemetery, Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich, Kent, is as entered above. Briefly mention was made at the commemoration of Charles MacNally, that it is well known that when checked against other more reliable record sources, for a number of reasons 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' is found to contain thousands of different errors. Another thing which is regrettable with SDGW is the staggering number of soldier's deaths which occurred within the United Kingdom during the Great War, who have no SDGW entry. It has also

been noticed by the transcriber over the years, and doubtless by many other people, that a not insignificant number of those who were recorded as having died within the United Kingdom, are amongst those which contain many of the unfortunate errors. Private, 40605, JOHN SMITH, (above) has no SDGW entry but is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, his CWGC commemoration contains the names of his parents, and fortunately his age and place of birth which tally with the 1901 census entry. Totally the reverse as in John's case, Private, 40605, JOSEPH SMITH, also of the Suffolk Regiment, does have an entry in/on SDGW, which shows that he too also died in the United Kingdom on exactly the same day as the soldier buried at Sandwich. The SDGW entry for Joseph shows him to have been a native of Hendon, Middlesex, and as having enlisted at Mill Hill. A former member of the South Staffordshire Regiment, Joseph has no CWGC commemoration. Due to the fact that the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not personally sighted the death certificates of either of the J. Smith's, or any other supporting documentation, it might be that the SDGW entry for Joseph is incorrect, but www.kentfallen.com will carry out more in-depth researches, in an attempt to ascertain if Joseph is numbered amongst the thousands of Commonwealth casualties resultant of both world wars who are still not officially commemorated by the CWGC, and that sadly as the result of which, many of the war dead still lie in unmarked graves.



SMITH, WILLIAM ERNEST. Lance Corporal, G/2677.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
17th Brigade, 24th Division.

Died Friday 18 August 1916. Aged 28.

Born Minster, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of John and Emma Elizabeth Smith of 4, Hawthorn Cottages, Sandwich, Kent.

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

Please see census entry details at the brief commemoration of William's brother John Smith above. To play its part in the 'Battle of the Somme 1916' William's battalion left by train from Bailleul, and arrived at Longueau near Amiens on 25 July, and from Longueau the battalion marched back along the line to Le Mesge, a march of about fifteen miles. On the last day of the month a move was made to the Bois des Tailles, which is a wood located to the south of Méaulte that runs along the side of a valley, and which stretches across the D1 Morlancourt to Bray road. On 1 August the battalion again moved, on that occasion going to Sandpit Camp. Sandpit Cemetery which was on the Albert to Bray road to the east of Méaulte was made by the 12th (Eastern) Division, in which several Sandwich natives and residence served and died. On 6 August, the 17th Brigade, 24th Division received orders to take over the line between the village of Guillemont and Delville Wood, and in response to the orders William's battalion prepared for the move, but at virtually the last moment the movement order was rescinded and the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) remained at Sandpit Camp, until going to Bernafay Wood via Carnoy on 8 August. The attack of Friday 18 August 1916 by William's battalion, was as the direct result of combined plans drawn up by British and French senior officers for the capture of enemy positions, and in particular the Somme village of Guillemont, following a number of heroic isolated attacks and failures by various battalions, prior to the arrival of the 17th Brigade, 24th Division. In tried and trusted fashion, each battalion assigned to take part in the overall attacks on Friday 18 August 1916, were allocated locations to be assaulted, captured, and held, but in progressive stages commencing at 0245 hours. Two platoons of "A" Company, 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), led by Second Lieutenant D. Grant, were ordered to seize a location known as Machine Gun House. After capturing Machine Gun House, The Buffs were under orders to convert it into a strong point, and to then render assistance to personnel of the 3rd Battalion, Rifle Brigade, which were located on the right flank of the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Another of the platoons of "A" Company was put at the disposal of Second Lieutenant's assaulting platoons, should their assistance be needed. On Friday 18 August 1916, "C" Company commanded by Captain C.D. Gullick, and assisted by half of "B" Company junior officers and other ranks in close support, was assigned to attack an enemy position which was known as "Z.Z." trench, at Delville Wood, the trench complex was located approximately two hundred yards from the front line in the direction of Ginchy. The remaining platoon of "A" Company personnel who were not otherwise engaged, were located in Trones Trench with soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers, who combined with

"D" Company, of the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), comprised the reserve force for the attacks on "Z.Z." trench. Captain Gullick's force rushed out from the comparative safety of their trenches, and under the cover of supporting artillery barrage successfully reached their assigned objective with only light casualties, although one of the officers, Second Lieutenant William J.L. Peacock fell when the battalion was equidistant of the British and German trenches. Upon reaching the "Z.Z." trench complex, the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), found that for the most part its defenders had been wholly unprepared to repel an assault, which had included one of Germans who was in his 'birthday suit,' and clearly in no position to take on the assaulting Buffs. Fortunately most of the German trench garrison surrendered, but one officer and his machine gun crew proved to be the exception, and put up a spirited resistance, but eventually the gun was captured and turned on the enemy. Captain Hodgson then brought up the remainder of his company to reinforce the captured trenches, but in crossing no-mans-land his men suffered more casualties than Captain Gullick's officers and other ranks during their assault on the trenches. One of the people who was hit several times during the attack, had actually been Captain Gullick, and due to same, Captain Hodgson had assume command of "Z.Z." trench. Although the days events by William's battalion on Friday 18 August 1916, were deemed to have been successful, as the two platoons of "A" Company, led by Second Lieutenant D. Grant, captured and held Machine Gun House, it was at the cost of the lives of Second Lieutenant William J.L. Peacock and 65 other ranks. In addition to the deaths, 6 officers and approximately 300 other ranks were wounded to varying degrees, and 16 other ranks were posted as missing.

SUTTON, CHARLES JAMES. Bombardier, 53618.

14th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Died Monday 15 May 1916. Aged 25.

Born, enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Henry George and Fanny Sutton (née Higgins) of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried Amara War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: XXI. F. 13.

A brother of the next casualty briefly commemorated below. At the time of the 1901 census the Sutton family resided at Church Street, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 47 year old Sandwich native Henry George Sutton, who was employed as a Grocers Carman. By 1918 Henry George Sutton was the Parish Clerk of St. Mary's, Sandwich, and also the Sexton of the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Sandwich.

SUTTON, FRANK. Corporal, 3164.

1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade. 11th Brigade, 4th Division.

Died Saturday 13 May 1915. Aged 26.

Born, enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Henry George and Fanny Sutton of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Sandwich, Kent.

Buried New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: IX. F. 2.

For additional brief family details, please see commemoration of Frank's brother who is the last casualty briefly commemorated above. Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel H.M. Biddulph, the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade was stationed at Colchester, Essex at the commencement of the Great War, and was part of the 11th Brigade, 4th Division. Frank's battalion had disembarked at the port of Harve, France, during the early hours of 23 August 1914, having crossed from Southampton onboard the SS Cestrian. Reference was made at the brief commemoration of fellow St. Mary's, Sandwich parishioner Charles MacNally, of the comprehensive doings of the Rifle Brigade during the Great War which are recorded in books. In stark contrast to Charles, whose was the sole death in the 4th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade on the day that he lost his life, of which the transcriber has been able to expand upon. There are fortunately far more details available via numerous sources, re the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade for the day that Frank fell, when he was numbered amongst the 48 other ranks in his battalion who died on Saturday 13 May 1915. On 3 May 1915 Frank's battalion had been withdrawn from the front line and moved to bivouacs at Elverdinghe near Ypres (now Ieper), West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, for a few days period of rest. From Elverdinghe the battalion went to Vlamertinghe on 8 May, and from there went into trenches at 'Mouse Trap Farm' the following day. Whilst ensconced in the trenches the battalion was subjected to heavy artillery fire, but had stoically held its ground. On the day that Frank fell, which was the last stage of the 'Battle of Frenzenberg Ridge,' German infantry had launched attacks all along the line, having commenced them on the same day that the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade had moved to Vlamertinghe. Saturday 13 May 1915 was also destined to be the last day that Frank's battalion participated in the 'Second Battle of Ypres' which was fought from 22 April 1915 until 25 May 1915. There is something of an additional tragic twist appertaining to the losses in the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade on Saturday 13 May 1915, because as the direct result of enemy gains elsewhere along the Frenzenberg Ridge, all of the ground which had been successfully defended and held by the battalions of the 11th Brigade, 4th Division was abandoned. Another defensive line was established approximately one thousand yards to the rear following the withdrawal. The new line of defence ran from Turco Farm-Admiral's Road-Wieltje-and Warwick Farm. Whilst it has been possible to add brief additional details about the events re the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade on Saturday 13 May 1915, it has unfortunately not been possible to find out, (and add here), at what time or stage of the days events it was that Frank lost his life. He may have been killed by an enemy shell early in the day, by infantry whilst defending one of the trenches, or during the withdrawal.

TOWN, JOHN. Private, G/4932.

2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). 85th Brigade, 28th Division.

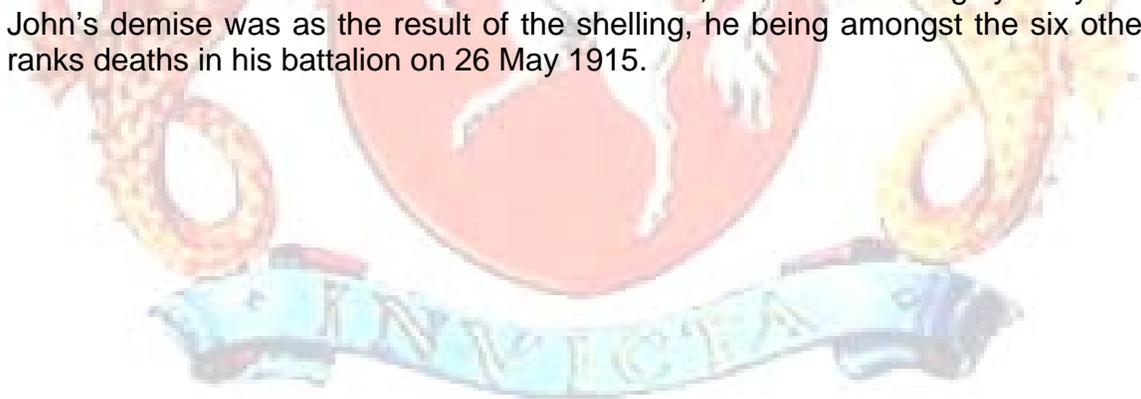
Died Friday 26 May 1915.

Born, enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

Buried White House Cemetery, St. Jean-Les-Ypres, St.Jan, West Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: III. J. 16.

John is probably the child whose birth was registered in the Eastry, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1888, who appears to have been the son Richard and Emily Town. At the time of the 1901 census the Town family was residing at Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old Sandwich native Richard Town who was a self-employed Publican. John's medal card entry records that he had entered the French war theatre on 12 May 1915, and that he was killed in action on 26 May 1915. John had been in a large draft which was comprised of 5 officers and 350 other ranks, which were posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), primarily as replacements for the casualties that the battalion had suffered. When drafts were posted to the various infantry battalions during the Great War years, it was to a certain extent that they had mixed fortunes regarding the date of joining their new battalions. Some officers and other ranks joined when the battalions were out of the front line, whilst others of necessity and with almost obscene haste, gained hands on experience in trench warfare immediately upon arrival. Those who arguably were the most fortunate were those who joined not only when their new battalion was out of the line, but at times when there was a lengthy time of non-conflict between the opposing combatant armies. Unfortunately in the case of John and his fellow draftees, they were posted to the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the 'Second Battle of Ypres.' Barely a week after joining the battalion, the 85th Brigade, 28th Division and other soldiers were addressed by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir John French on 20 May 1915, of which the following is a very condensed extract of Sir John's address, "Your Colours have many famous names emblazoned on them, but none will be more famous or more well deserved than that of the 'Second Battle of Ypres.' I want you one and all to understand how thoroughly I realize and appreciate what you have done. I wish to thank you, each officer, non-commissioned officer and man, for the services you have rendered by doing your duty so magnificently, and I am sure that your country will thank you too." The engagement which cost John Town his life, was effectively of three days duration, and commenced at 0245 hours on Wednesday 24 May 1915. As part of a final effort, the Germans mounted an attack along the whole front from Wieltje to the Menin road. When the attack commenced it was primarily in the form of a gas attack of four and a half hours duration, which was combined with a heavy artillery bombardment with gas shells. In addition to the extensive use of noxious gases, the assaulting German infantry also used 'Flammenwerfen' (Flamethrowers). Following the primary bombardment, German infantry then advanced en-masse in heavy strength, but on every occasion were successfully repulsed. To the north of the railway line that traverses the area under attack, two companies of the 1st/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, and a company of the 2nd

Battalion, East Surrey Regiment were forced to withdraw due to the gas. At 0430 hours a message from Captain Court of the 9th Lancers, was received at 85th Brigade headquarters, which stated that his men were "on their knees," but holding on. Probably because the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was holding the right of the 85th Brigade, 28th Division line, which had the 9th Lancers on its right flank, was the reason why it was Captain Barnard with "A" Company, followed by Lieutenant Swayne leading half of "C" Company, that were sent to effect a rescue of the beleaguered cavalymen of the 9th Lancers at Hooge. Resulting from the assistance rendered to the 9th Lancers, John's battalion then fought for the remainder of Wednesday 25 May in two distinct separate parties. At 0630 hours on 24 May 1915, the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) received orders to reinforce the remnants of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), who were determined to retake a trench that they had previously lost to the enemy. With the personnel led by Captain Barnard and Lieutenant Swayne otherwise engaged, it fell to the officers and other ranks of "B" Company, and the remainder of "C" Company going up to assist the Royal Fusiliers in their difficult undertaking. "D" Company was ordered to remain in the General Headquarters line at the start of the engagements. Although the combined force of Buffs and Royal Fusiliers were not only successful in retaking the lost trench, but against all the overwhelming odds stacked against them, they also managed to hold (at great cost) the reclaimed trench near Bellewaarde. Of the officers and other ranks of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) who fought in the action on Wednesday 25 May 1915, 552 ended the day as casualties. For the remainder of the engagements fought by 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) until the night of 26/27 May 1915, various data sources checked would seem to indicate that most of the casualties, either fatalities or woundings were the result of being shelled by German artillery, and whilst purely a supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, it would seem highly likely that John's demise was as the result of the shelling, he being amongst the six other ranks deaths in his battalion on 26 May 1915.



UDEN, ALFRED THOMAS. Private, G/2926.

8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

72nd Brigade, 24th Division.

Died Saturday 25 September 1915. Aged 19.

Born, enlisted and resided Sandwich, Kent.

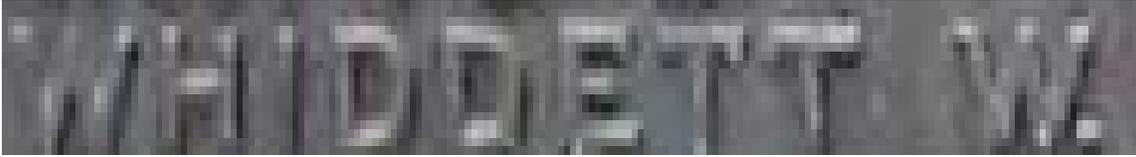
Son of Alfred John and Louisa Uden of 6, Britannia Terrace, Sandwich, Kent.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15, and on The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment War Memorial which is located in the north wall of Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, Surrey, which houses the Book of Remembrance which lists approximately 8000 officers and other ranks who gave their lives during the Great War.

Formerly Private, G/2962, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census the Uden family resided at Cottage Row, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Sandwich native Alfred John Uden, who was employed as a Drayman. Alfred was one of three Sandwich natives or residents who lost their lives during the 'Battle of Loos' on the same day, whilst serving in the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). At least 84 other ranks deaths in their battalion were recorded following the days events of Tuesday 25 September 1915, which was its first experience of a large action during the Great War, but was unfortunately destined to be the prelude to many others. The overall Battle of Loos cost the battalion dear, with an all inclusive casualty roll of 12 officers and 409 other ranks. Amongst the officers who fell was the Commanding Officer of the battalion, 54 year old Colonel Frederick Howard Fairtlough C.M.G. from Godalming, Surrey, whose 28 year old son Captain Gerard Howard Fairtlough M.C. 423rd Field Company (T.F.) The Royal Engineers, died of wounds in a Base Hospital at Etaples, Pas de Calais, France, on Thursday 13 June 1918. Checking SDGW (which does contain errors) shows that by the end of the Great War, the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) had suffered 668 other ranks deaths. Immediately prior to going to France, an advanced party of the battalion, which was comprised of Major H.J.C. Peirs, Lieutenants J.R. Smith and W.Q. Henriques, and 106 other ranks left from Farnborough, Surrey via train to leave from Southampton for Harve, France. The following day the remainder of the battalion left from Frimley, Surrey to travel from Folkestone to Boulogne. On Thursday 2 September 1915, both elements of the battalion were reunited at Montreuil from where all of the battalion marched to Herly, a distance of twelve miles. Having spent almost three weeks at Herly, on Tuesday 21 September 1915 the battalion commenced its march to Vermelles via Glem, Berguettes, and Béthune arriving at the village of Vermelles which is approximately 7 miles to the north-west of Lens, on the afternoon of Saturday 25 September 1915. From Vermelles the 72nd Brigade, of the 24th Division to which the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) belonged moved out to occupy trenches to the west of Le Rutoire Farm on the Loos Plain which was, and still is a large farm complex situated close to the village of Vermelles, that was some distance behind the British front line. Of specific 'Kent' interest regarding Le Rutoire is that it was on Saturday 25 September 1915, that Herne native, and Ashford resident Serjeant

Harry Wells of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment won the Victoria Cross. Whilst ensconced in the trenches to the west of Le Rutoire Farm, Colonel Fairtlough commanding the battalion received somewhat ambiguous orders in preparation for a planned attack on an area to the south of the village of Hulluch. An attack carried out by the 9th (Scottish) Division, had by mid-morning succeeded in reaching and occupying the enemy trench complex around the Hohenzollern Redoubt and Fosse 8, and also Pekin Trench. In order to play its part in the days events, the 72nd Brigade, of the 24th Division formed up with the 8th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the 9th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment in the front line, and the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), and the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in support of the two forward battalions. At 1100 hours Alfred's battalion was subjected to enemy shell fire, but incredibly suffered no recorded casualties' resultant of the shelling. At 1300 hours the 73rd Brigade, 24th Division was ordered to reinforce Fosse 8, as it was believed that any loss of position here would seriously endanger the troops which were still at Pekin Trench. In addition, six Field Batteries of the Royal Field Artillery were ordered forward to positions south-west of the Redoubt, where they came into action and commenced firing at 1630 hours. During the afternoon, the occupants of Pekin Trench came under heavy shellfire, and German infantry began a bombing attack, starting at the Haisnes-Auchy road and working in a southerly direction, whilst others worked north from Cite Trench. Despite being reinforced by the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, ultimately the overwhelming superiority of German grenades took their, and the position was gradually retaken. By 1700 hours, about half of it had been lost, and the remaining men were ordered to withdraw in the dark. Unfortunately many returned as far as the original German front line, leaving a very confused picture around Fosse Alley, which became the new British front line. The advanced artillery field batteries were ordered back to the positions they had left earlier in the day.





WHIDDETT, WILLIAM. Stoker 1st Class, K/2155.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Formidable."

Died Friday 1 January 1915. Aged 24.

Born Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent 4 May 1890.

Husband of Ethel A. M. Simmons (formerly Whiddett), (née Moat) of 7, Broadway, Swanspool, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 12.

William and Ethel's marriage was registered in the Eastry, Kent, District, during the second quarter of 1913. William enlisted in the Royal Navy at Chatham, Kent for a 12 year engagement on 11 March 1909, at which time he stated that he was employed in the Fish Trade. William's official number has the prefix 'K' which shows that he was a Stoker, and as such it came as no surprise to find that his initial training had been carried out on the 10,784 ton Stokers' training ship at the Nore, which was the former H.M.S. Northumberland that was a long-hulled broadside ironclad warship of the Victorian era commissioned in 1868, and was the third and final ship of the 'Minotaur' class battleships to be commissioned. In the years that she was in use as a Stokers' training ship, the battleship was renamed H.M.S. Acheron. From 28 August 1909 until 28 December 1909, William served as a Stoker 2nd Class onboard the ill-fated H.M.S. Pathfinder a 2,900 ton Pathfinder Scout Class cruiser which was built by Cammell Laird & Co Ltd at Birkenhead, she was launched on 16 July 1904, and commissioned on 18 July 1905. At the time of the start of the Great War H.M.S. Pathfinder was the leader of the 8th Destroyer Flotilla based at Rosyth, Scotland. On Saturday 5 September 1914 and running short of coal, H.M.S. Pathfinder was only making 5 knots at the time of her loss, which was at approximately 1630 hours when she was torpedoed and sunk in the North Sea off St. Abbs Head, Berwickshire, Scotland, some 10 miles to the southwest of the Island of May, by the type U19 Mittel-U class, German u-boat U-21, which at the time was commanded by Leutnant zur See, Otto Hersing. H.M.S. Pathfinder has the unenviable distinction of being the first Royal Navy warship to be sunk by a u-boat of the Imperial German Navy during the Great War, and the first ship ever to be sunk by the use of a torpedo alone fired from a submarine. H.M.S. Pathfinder was struck by the torpedo in one of her magazines, which exploded causing the ship to sink within a few minutes with the loss of 259 men; there were only 11 survivors of the sinking. Apart from his time on H.M.S. Pathfinder and periods of service spent at H.M.S. Pembroke, Chatham, Kent, most of William's service in the Royal Navy was spent as a Stoker on the battleship H.M.S. Formidable which he first joined on 8 March 1910, and two days after joining her his rating was raised to that of Stoker 1st Class. H.M.S. Formidable had been launched on 17 November 1898 at Portsmouth, and served in the Mediterranean Fleet up to 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 was serving

with this squadron at the start of the Great War. The ship left Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent on Wednesday 30 December 1914 to take part in a firing exercise off Portland. On Friday 1 January 1915 she was sunk by a torpedo fired from the German u-boat U-24 which was commanded by 32 year old Kapitänleutnant Rudolph 'Rudi' Schneider. The torpedo struck the starboard side abreast of her foremost funnel; and the ship sank with the loss of 547 lives from her complement of 780.

WILLIAMS, FREDERICK CHARLES. Lance Corporal, G/9815.

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

37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division.

Died Wednesday 25 July 1917.

Born Eastry, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Sandwich, Kent.

Probably the son of George and Annie Williams.

Buried Monchy British Cemetery, Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: I. J. 6.

At the time of the 1901 census the Williams family resided at Strand Street, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 60 year old Eastry, Kent native George Williams, who was employed as an Engine Driver. Youngest of the three Williams boys who were at home on the night of the census, was 19 year old Eastry, Kent native Frederick Williams who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. On 17 July 1917 Frederick's battalion had two other ranks killed in action, and one who died of wounds, on the day prior to Frederick's demise another man died of wounds. The deaths of the soldiers above, are a good illustration of the fact that the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was enjoying a brief interlude from the attention of the enemy, which following an attack by the Germans on 11 July that had resulted in the death of 1 officer and 24 other ranks. On the day that Frederick lost his life, his was the sole loss in his battalion, and as such it would seem likely that Frederick's death, which SDGW records as killed in action, was possibly due to the action of an enemy sniper as opposed to shelling by artillery which usually, but not always resulted in multiple deaths amongst the units that had been shelled.



WRAIGHT, RICHARD W. Private, M2/073598.

Royal Army Service Corps.

Died Friday 20 February 1919.

Born Sandwich, Kent.

Son of Osbourne James Wright and Elizabeth Wraight (née Thomas).

Buried Halle Communal Cemetery, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium. Grave Ref: A. 55.

At the time of the 1881 census the Williams family resided at the Butts, Sandwich, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Herne Hill, Kent, native Osbourne James Wraight who was employed as a Brewers Labourer. In later years Osbourne had been employed as a Labourer at St. George's Golf Club, Sandwich, prior to its royal status being bestowed on St. George's, by H.M. King Edward VII in May 1902. Richard was probably the child whose birth was registered in the Eastry, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1879, with the Christian names Richard William. As Richard's death certificate has not been sighted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, it is not known if his death was resultant of a war wound/s etcetera, an accidental death, or probably more likely, that he was one of the victims of the world wide Influenza pandemic, which in late 1918 and early 1919 ultimately claimed more lives than all of the casualties of the Great War.

