

SINDEN W  
Boughton Aluph Civic War Memorial

**APPROVED 20 OCTOBER 2005**



Boughton Aluph War Memorial



**Private 446232 William Alfred SINDEN. 107<sup>th</sup> P.O.W Company, Labour Corps. Formerly 836<sup>th</sup> Area Employment Company. Formerly (5062) The Buffs, (East Kent Regiment). Died 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1920 aged 44 years. Resided Worgers Cottage, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent. William died at Worgers Cottage of heart disease and Rheumatism caused by or aggravated by his war service. William's son Mr A.W.H Sinden was present at his fathers death. William's death certificate reference is East**

Ashford/Wye/1920/entry 346. The death certificate states that William was a Domestic Gardener and former soldier. Buried in an unmarked paupers grave in the Boughton Aluph parish churchyard, Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission did not record William as a war casualty until October 2005. Neil Clark submitted William's name for belated commemoration in September 2005. A month later the MoD agreed that William's name should be added to the CWGC roll of honour.

William was invalided from the army on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1919 aged 43 years. Upon discharge he returned to Worgers Cottage, Boughton Aluph near Ashford, Kent. After William's death his widow was awarded a war pension by the Ministry of Pensions (Case number 7497). The certificate clearly states that William's illness **WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO WAR SERVICE.**

The 107<sup>th</sup> POW Company, Labour Corps guarded German prisoners of war in France. The 836<sup>th</sup> Area Employment Company, Labour Corps was a home based (UK) farm labouring unit. It remained in the UK for the duration of the war.

William was married to Harriet Emily Sinden on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1898 at Boughton Lees, Ashford. They had 4 children –

Bertie George	30 <sup>th</sup> August 1902
Percy John	10 <sup>th</sup> June 1906
Nelson Benjamin	10 <sup>th</sup> July 1911
Fred David	30 <sup>th</sup> December 1914

William attested for war service in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1916 at Ashford. He was posted to the army reserve the next day and commenced his training at the Citadel in Dover with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, The Buffs. On the 27<sup>th</sup> June 1916 William was drafted to a Buffs frontline service battalion. He served in The Buffs until 19<sup>th</sup> August 1918 when he was transferred to the Labour Corps. He had been medically downgraded and was no longer fit enough to serve in the infantry.

The 1901 census gives –  
Boughton Lees

<b>William SINDEN</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Stable Worker</b>	<b>Boughton Aluph</b>
Harriet	21		Petham
Alfred	6m		Boughton Lees

Boughton Lees

Alfred	SINDEN	52	Carpenter	Great Chart
Frances		44		Westwell
Bertie		20	Bricklayer	Boughton Aluph
Percey		17	Gardener	Boughton Aluph
Valentine		15	Apprentice	Boughton Aluph
Isabella	12			Boughton Aluph
Nellie		10		Boughton Aluph
Edith		3		Boughton Aluph

The Ashford Absentee Voters List for 1918 gives –

The Lees, Boughton Aluph

**Private 44467 Bertie James SINDEN. 19<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.**  
**Private 12738 Percy David SINDEN. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Sherwood Foresters.**  
**Private 446232 William Alfred SINDEN. 107<sup>th</sup> P.O.W Company, Labour Corps.**

William's Grandson Keith Sinden has stated that William served in the trenches and was buried alive under debris (presumably from a shell explosion). He was recovered back to the UK and after recovering was medically downgraded which meant that he could no longer fight in the frontline as an infantryman (Bufs). He was transferred into the Labour Corps and returned to active service (albeit with a Labour Corps UK based farm labouring unit). His family said that after being wounded and buried alive, William was "never the same again"!

