

STANSTED



The Great War
1914 – 1919

In addition to the village civic war memorial on the green. Inside Stansted (St. Mary's) parish church is a marble wall plaque, with the following casualties commemorated on it and the inscription "Their name liveth for evermore," The last of those commemorated Lieutenant G.A. Goodman R.A.F. is unfortunately not also named on the war memorial.

To the honoured memory of the men of this parish who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1918
Lieut. Colonel A.G. KEMBALL C.B., D.S.O., 54th Canadians / Major W.N. PITT, 2nd Bn. Lincolnshire Regt. / Lieut. and Adjutant J.M. PITT 1st Bn. Dorset Regt. / Sergt. Major A. KIRTON, 11th Bn. Australian Imperial Force / Co. Sergt. Major J.F. JOHNSON, 9th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps / Private A.T. BETTS, Royal Army Service Corps / Private H.G. BLACKMAN, 1st Bn. Grenadier Guards / Driver F.BOWYER, Royal Engineers / Private L.V. BROWN, 2nd Bn. Royal West Surrey Regt. / Driver V.R. BROWN, Royal Field Artillery / Private E. E. BURNETT, 3rd Bn. Royal West Kent Regt. / Private J. A. MARTIN, 28th Bn. Australian Imperial Force / Private L. SOLOMON, Post Office Rifles / Private B.R. STREATFIELD, 7th Bn. Royal West Kent Regt. / Lieut. G.A. GOODMAN, Royal Air Force

KEMBALL ARNOLD HENRY GRANT, Lieutenant-Colonel. C.B., D.S.O.
54th (Kootenay) Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment).
Died 1 March 1917. Aged 56.
Born Belgaum, India 4 January 1861.
Re-enlisted Vernon Camp, British Columbia Canada 17 June 1915.
Son of Major General John Shaw Kemball, of Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent, and the late Dora Margaret Kemball who died 31 May 1916.
Husband of Alvilda Kemball (nee Sundt) of Kaslo, British Columbia, Canada.
Brother of Major General Sir George Vero Kemball, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.
Buried Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-au-Bois, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: VI. E. 1.

Arnold is also commemorated on a memorial tablet in Stansted, Kent (St. Mary's) parish church, and on page 267 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance. Arguably the most poignant and fitting form of remembrance of Arnold is the memorial plaque at Kaslo, British Columbia, which had been commissioned by his men after the Great War. Prior to his re-enlistment, Arnold had already served for a total of thirty two years in the British and Indian Army, and was formerly the Colonel of the 5th Gurkha Rifles. Following the completion of his formal education at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in 1880, Arnold was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1st Battalion, Royal Scots, before going to the Indian Army and joining the 5th Gurkha Rifles. During his early service in India, Arnold saw action in the Black Mountain Expedition in 1888, Hazara 1891, North West Frontier 1897-98 and Tirah Expeditionary Force 1897-98. He was mentioned in despatches for his service on both the North West Frontier and Tirah. After being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1905 he was given command of one of battalion's of the 5th Gurkha Rifles. In 1907 he was promoted to full Colonel and commanded the 5th Gurkha Rifle Regiment until his retirement in 1910. Upon his retirement, Arnold along with his wife Alvilda, who was Swedish by birth, their two daughters Dorothy and Gerda,

moved Kent in 1910, prior to moving to Kaslo, British Columbia, Canada the following year, where he became a Fruit Farmer. A year after going to Canada he was made a Companion of the Bath for his services in India. Following his re-enlistment, initially Arnold was placed on the rolls of the 107th Canadian Infantry Regiment in Fernie British Columbia, but for obvious reasons was quickly appointed as a Major and Deputy Commanding Officer of the newly formed 54th (Kootenay) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. During the initial training stage of the battalion at Camp Vernon in July 1915, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and became the battalion Commanding Officer. Having led the battalion throughout its training in Canada, and later England, he continued to command the battalion on the Western Front from 14 August 1916, where his battalion joined the recently formed 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade of the 4th Canadian Division. After more training in the relatively quiet sector of the Ypres Salient, Belgium, the battalion went to the Somme, France. In an action fought on 18 November 1916, Arnold led his battalion in a highly successful attack on an enemy trench complex named 'Desire Trench,' and it was for this action that he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. The London Gazette entry for the Distinguished Service Order is dated 10 January 1917, and also on page 2791 of the Canada Gazette, dated 10 February 1917. The citation for same reads:- "For conspicuous gallantry in action. He led his battalion in the attack with conspicuous success, and carried out every task allotted to him. He set a splendid example of courage and good leadership throughout." Both Gazettes list his Mention in Despatches, post his demise. Following the success at Desire Trench, the 54th (Kootenay) Battalion travelled north to the Vimy Front and to join the rest of the Canadian Corps. In late February 1917, the 54th (Kootenay) Battalion was ordered to carry out a large trench raid in conjunction with other battalions of the 4th Canadian Division. Instead of the use of a preliminary artillery bombardment of the enemy positions to be attacked, this raid was carried out with the use of gas. Arnold fell whilst leading the 54th (Kootenay) Battalion from the front, when it was carrying out the raid during the disastrous gas attack, and he was initially posted as missing. On 3 March a temporary truce was called to recover about 200 officers and other ranks that fell during the raid. Of the 405 soldiers participating in the raid, in excess of 200 were casualties. It is recorded that "recognizing the Canadian officer Lieutenant Colonel Kemball's gallantry and devotion to duty, the Germans returned his body with great respect." Following the confirmation of his death, Arnold's wife was informed of same at Box 427, Kaslo, British Columbia, Canada, as was his sister Miss E. Kemball of 'Brackenhill,' Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, England. Having previously let his superiors know in no uncertain terms, that he was "utterly convinced that the raid had very little chance of success," Arnold on the day of the raid defied orders and personally led two companies engaged in the raid. The companies had lost direction due to the poor visibility, and Arnold moved to lead the left-hand company on the proper bearing, and it was whilst trying to find a gap in the enemy wire that he was killed in action. In the parish church of St. Mary's Stansted, Kent is memorial plaque inscribed:- "In loving memory of Major General JOHN SHAW KEMBALL, Bombay Staff Corps, of Fairseat House. For

34 years churchwarden of this parish, born July 5th 1822. Entered into Rest at Bordighera April 19th 1914.”

PITT WILLIAM NEVILLE. Major
2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment.
Died 20 August 1916. Aged 35.
Born 12 September 1880.

Son of Colonel William Pitt, C.M.G., late of the Royal Engineers, and Mrs Mary Pitt of Fairseat House, Fairseat, Kent.

Buried Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: 1 F 19.

Colonel William Pitt, C.M.G., William's father had a long and distinguished career in the Royal Engineers, and was one of the original First Members of Council, of the Institution of Royal Engineers. William had been a pupil at Haileybury School, Hertfordshire from 1894 to 1896, and had Served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War), being the recipient of the Queens South Africa Medal with five clasps. A brother of the next casualty commemorated. It was noted when carrying out the research for these brief Stansted, Kent commemorations, that William had at times been the diarist for his battalion, as well as at least being at one time commanding the battalion during the Great War prior to his death, following which, the then diarist Captain E Richards, had to record William as having been wounded with a subsequent entry showing died of wounds. Prior to the onset of the Great War, Williams's battalion was stationed at Bermuda, to allow the battalion to return to Europe the Canadian Government sent the Royal Canadian Regiment to Bermuda to relieve the 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, which embarked onboard the SS Canada and sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia in mid September, it was on the same vessel that the battalion sailed for England on 3 October 1914. Having arrived safely at Devonport the battalion was moved to Hursley Camp, Winchester, Hampshire and joined the 25th Brigade, 8th Division. Led by Lieutenant Colonel George Bunbury McAndrew, (a Boer war veteran who fell on 3 March 1915, aged 55) the battalion left Winchester and marched to Southampton, from where it embarked on the SS Cestrian and arrived at Le Harve on 6 November 1915. During one of the battalions' earliest encounters with the enemy was a raid that was carried out by a party of eight other ranks led by Lieutenant Edward Hastings Impey (later Major Machine Gun Corps), dressed in white sheets, or as the Divisional Historian records same, "dressed in ladies white nightdresses" the small raiding party entered a German position named 'Red Lamp Corner,' and retired without loss, having found that the opposition had proved to be very easy targets due to their uniforms which stood out as white against the background of the snow. On 8 December 1914, the 8th Division was visited by H.M. the King, who was accompanied by President Poincare and General Joffe at which time Williams battalion formed the Guard of Honour which was commanded by Captain R. Bastard. Numerous moves were made by the battalion, and on 17 April 1915 the battalion was addressed by the Commander In Chief, Sir John French on the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. On 7 May 1915, orders for attack on Fromelles are received by the battalion and issued to Companies. The following day at 1100 hours the battalion

left billets and marched down to assembly trenches near Rue Petillon, where it formed up ready for attack near Rouges Bancs near Armentieres, France on the following morning. The Battalion was on the left flank of the second line. W and X companies in front, with Y and Z immediately behind. At 0500 hours on 9 May an artillery bombardment of enemy's trenches began, and on lifting at 0540 hours, the 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment in the front line commenced the attack with the William's battalion following close behind. The enemy at once opened heavy artillery and rifle fire. The leading companies of the battalion were able to advance as far as the trenches immediately in front of its own fire parapet, but from there found further advance impossible, with heavy flanking fire from rifles and machine guns being brought to bear on them. Before this position was reached, 29 year old Lieutenant Henry M. Goldsmith an attached officer from the Devonshire Regiment, Second Lieutenant Giles F. Ayres an attached officer from the 3rd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, and Second Lieutenant Robert D.M. Nisbet were killed, and Second Lieutenants Nind and Clifford wounded. At least 89 other ranks were killed in this attack. 26 year old Corporal Richard Sharpe (later Company Sergeant Major) was in charge of a blocking party sent forward to take a portion of the German trench. He was the first to reach the enemy's position, and using bombs with great effect he himself cleared them out of a trench 50 yards long. By this time all his party had fallen and he was then joined by four other men with whom he attacked the enemy with bombs and captured a further trench 250 yards long. For his heroic actions that day he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Richard survived both world wars, as he again served with the regiment in the Second World War, prior to becoming an A.R.P. member at Bourne, Lincolnshire. He died at Workington, Cumberland on 18 February 1963, aged 73. After numerous moves, eventually the battalion arrived in the Department of the Somme, quiet some time before the famous events of 1 July 1916. Glancing the battalion war diary entries shows that for much of the time the battalion underwent long periods of intensive training in conjunction with taking its turn in the trenches, in addition to which working parties are shown in the Divisional Reserve. On the first day of the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' it was perhaps fortunate for William that he was in charge of the officers and other ranks of the battalion who were left behind with the regimental transport in reserve, when the bulk of his battalion assembled at 0330 hours in trenches opposite Owillers, where it was reported that the wire to the battalion had all been cut an hour previously. The leading waves of William's battalion crossed No Man's Land at 0725 hours under heavy enemy fire, by 0750 hours after fierce fighting, some 200 yards had been taken, but at a cost. After being relieved by the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment at midnight, whereupon William's battalion moved to Long Valley. The relevant battalion war diary entry shows 26 other ranks killed, 303 wounded, 89 missing and 25 others wounded/missing, in addition to which the Commanding Officer and one other officer were the only non casualties amongst the officers, but checking the marginal data shows that both non casualties had bullet holes in their clothing. Having bivouacked at Long Valley the battalion left by train from Dernancourt at about 2100 hours, traveling through the night to Ailly-sur-Somme and from there

marched to St. Sauveur. A series of marches and stops of several days duration at Fouringy and Lozinghem then followed, prior to arriving and being billeted at Béthune in the Pas de Calais on 14 July 1916 for a week. From Bethune the battalion marched to Saily Labourse, and went into billets at Noyelles-sous-Lens in the Divisional Reserve. On 22 July the battalion relieved the 9th (Service) Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) in trenches in the 'Hohenzollern Sector.' Although the battalion was in the trenches for a fortnight, William (Diarist) recorded one officer casualty death, he being 19 year old Second Lieutenant Harold J. De Cann, killed on 29 July, although not recorded by name in the war diary, two other ranks deaths were recorded by William, the two Privates being Charles H. Strancer and Ernest Warren both killed on 25 July, during the period spent in the trenches, eleven other ranks were wounded, all casualties it would appear being the result of trench mortars and artillery. On 3 August 1916 the battalion was relieved by the 2nd Battalion, Rifle Brigade and moved back into Brigade Support trenches, before being relieved by the 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment on 8 August and marched back to billets in the Divisional Reserve at Fouquereuil. Whilst at Fouquereuil, on 12 August the soldiers of the battalion turned out into the streets to cheer H.M. the King as his car passed by, and appear to have been both surprised and thrilled when the car stopped and his Majesty walked up the main street of the village before getting back in his car with his soldiers still cheering. Three days after H.M. the King's visit, the battalion moved out of the village and occupied trenches in the 'Quarries Sector,' where a great deal of both trench mortar and artillery activity on both sides was indulged in, and it was here that William was mortally wounded. At the start of the Great War in August 1914, the Lincolnshire Regiment consisted of two Regular, one Special Reserve and two Territorial battalions; but during the course of the war a further fourteen battalions were raised, including a Labour Battalion the (12th). Ten went on active service, all on the Western Front, and one of them the (6th) was also at Gallipoli. Three Victoria Crosses were won by Williams's regiment during the Great War and 58 Battle Honours awarded to it. The regiments' total dead amounted to approximately 8,800, with William being numbered amongst the 394 officers who lost their lives. All ranks of the Lincolnshire Regiment who died during the Great War are commemorated on the impressive regimental memorial inside Lincoln Cathedral.



PITT, JAMES MAXWELL. Lieutenant.

1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.

Died 13 October 1914. Aged 26.

Younger son of Colonel William Pitt, C.M.G., late of the Royal Engineers, and Mrs Mary Pitt of Fairseat House, Fairseat, Kent.

Commemorated at Brown's Road Cemetery, Festubert, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Ref: Special Memorial 3.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Louis Jean Bols D.S.O., (later Major General Sir Louis Jean Bols K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.), with Major Reginald T. Roper as Second in Command, the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, as part of the 15th Brigade, 5th Division sailed for France from Belfast aboard the SS St. Anthony on 14 August 1914. Comprised of four companies, the battalion had James Pitt serving as an officer in 'A' Company. Although James's death occurred early during the Great War, a number of his brother officers in the battalion had pre-deceased him during numerous moves and several actions fought prior to that which took place in front of Givenchy, Pas de Calais, France on 13 October 1914. The day before James lost his life it was reported that the French army had lost Vermelles, which left General Horace Lockwood Smith-Dorrien with a problem. He could either move all of his forces north of the La Bassée Canal to attempt to execute a north-easterly advance as ordered, or move south to close the gap left by the unwelcome French withdrawal, and attempt to advance eastwards. He chose the latter, leaving five infantry Brigades of the 3rd and 5th Divisions facing four enemy Cavalry Divisions, and substantially more infantry than he had at his disposal; and placed the rest of II Corps to the south of the Canal. The Corps began to advance in long continuous lines, and managed to fend off a number of enemy counter-attacks, and overall the advance carried out that day was successful, eventually reaching the line Noyelles - Givenchy - Lacouture, with James's battalion in action along the La Bassée Canal from where it advanced from positions along the Pont Fixé to La Plantin Road before withdrawing to Pont Fixé. The advance continued on 13 October but after heavy and costly fighting on both sides there was no concrete result. British losses amounted to approximately 1,000, many of which were incurred in a heavy German bombardment of Givenchy, including those to the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. The Great War history of the regiment draws attention to the fact that a number of the enemy came forward from Givenchy carrying lances and were initially mistaken for French allies, which when considered at what stage the war had reached, that mistake is not really surprising. Another group of German soldiers near the battalion, advanced towards them with their hands raised above their heads indicating that they were surrendering, whereupon quite properly the officers and other ranks of the battalion ceased firing, but upon reaching the Dorsetshire line, the enemy infantrymen dropped their hands and rushed forward opening fire as they attacked. Probably of more significance at this brief commemoration to James, is that the regimental historian makes clear reference to him and his Commanding Officer, as both quite literally fought along side each other as they took Lee Enfield rifles from the dead around them, and fired into the oncoming foe. It would seem that as opposed to reloading with fresh

ammunition clips the pair of officers simply and quickly picked up a fresh weapon, and probably hoping that they were still loaded, hopefully with full magazines. During their heroic stand, Lieutenant Colonel Bols was wounded and subsequently captured, whilst a prisoner he was told to lie on a stretcher and wait to be attended by a Doctor, but despite his wounds he did not intend remaining a prisoner of war, and when an opportunity arose affording his escape he took it. Not only did he manage to reach the safety of the British lines, but actually joined his own battalion at Pont Fixé. By the end of the days fighting, 42 year old Major Reginald T. Roper, the Second in Command had fallen mortally wounded and 39 year old Captain William T.C. Davidson, 26 year old Lieutenant Joe A.F. Parkinson and 18 year old Second Lieutenant Thomas S. Smith were killed in addition to James Pitts, 7 other of the battalion officers were wounded, and 4 posted as missing. The initial casualty roll for the battalion for the day recorded 14 other ranks deaths, 122 wounded and 280 missing, the bodies of 130 of the latter being found later by a burial detail. Following the sacrifices made by members of the British Expeditionary Force on 13 October 1914, the fighting (and dying) continued during the advance with Givenchy being recaptured and held on 16 October, the following day a foothold was gained on the Aubers Ridge, following which a bridge over the La Bassée Canal less than a mile to the east of Givenchy was captured, which was destined to be the furthest the British would advance in this sector until 1918. When researching for this brief commemoration to the gallant James Pitts who died aged 26, it struck home once again how the fortunes of war regarding life and death, can be traumatically and dramatically determined by fate. Although he was wounded whilst fighting almost shoulder to shoulder to James, his Commanding Officer who at that time was already 46 years old, born in 1867, the son of a Belgian diplomat, Louis Bols career in the British Army began when he joined Devonshire Regiment in 1887, he served in several campaigns including Burma 1891-1892; Chitral Relief Force, North West Frontier, India 1895, and the South African War 1899-1902 (Second Boer War). He was Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General, Staff College 1910-1912; General Staff Officer Grade 2, Staff College 1912-1914, and then commanded James's battalion. After being wounded, captured and his daring escape, he later returned home and was appointed Commander, 84 Infantry Brigade British Expeditionary Force 1915, and was promoted to Major General and General Allenby's Third Army Chief of Staff 1915-1917. He continued to work with General Allenby until May 1917, and the aftermath of the unsuccessful Arras offensive. Following Arras he was relieved of his position, along with 'his boss' General Allenby, who was moved to the Palestine Front, a posting which General Allenby regarded as being clearly a demotion. Placed in command of the 24th Division, but as with General Allenby Louis Bols regarded same as a demotion. Nevertheless he very successfully led his new command in a prominent role during Sir Herbert Plumer's spectacularly successful 'Battle of Messines' in June 1917, it being the precursor to Sir Douglas Haig's rather less successful Third Battle of Ypres. Within three months Louis Bols was back with his former chief in Palestine, where General Allenby had replaced Sir Archibald Murray as regional Commander-in-Chief. History records that he in fact worked

particularly well with General Allenby, with both officers careers undergoing something of rejuvenation, in the wake of a series of successful battles culminating in the 'Capture of Jerusalem' shortly before Christmas 1917. Designated a British Mandate after the Armistice, Louis Bols served as Jerusalem's Military Governor from June 1919 until July 1920. On his return to the United Kingdom he became the Commander of the Wessex Division of the Territorial Army between 1920 and 1924, and also the Honorary Colonel of the 12 Battalion, London Regiment (The Rangers) 1920-1924. Rather appropriately he was appointed the Honorary Colonel of the Devonshire Regiment from 1921 until his death in 1930. He was also the Governor of Bermuda 1927-1930. A career and service in stark contrast to that of the young officer he fought bravely beside at Pont Fixé on 13 October 1914.

KIRTON, ALEXANDER MANN. Quartermaster-Sergeant, 450.

11th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces.

Died 18 February 1916. Aged 22.

Born Bunbury, Western Australia. Enlisted Freemantle, Western Australia 14 August 1914. Resided Hill Street, East Freemantle, Western Australia.

Son of Richard G. Kirton and Mary Ann Kirton of 88, the High Street, Freemantle, Western Australia.

Buried Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: D 321.

Also commemorated on panel 18 on the Australian National War Memorial, Canberra, Australian Capital Territories.

Prior to his army enlistment, and his attestation to the 86th Australian Infantry Brigade, Alexander had been employed as a Bank Clerk. After undergoing his military training, he embarked at the Port of Freemantle, Western Australia onboard the 10,049 H.M.T Ascanius on 2 November 1914 en-route for the Dardanelles campaign, at which time Alexander was already a Lance Serjeant. At Gallipoli during 1915, he unfortunately became seriously ill and had to be evacuated from the front, initially going to the island of Lemnos and from there back to a Military Hospital in Alexandria, Egypt. After a period of convalescence he was posted, as instructor to the Infantry Training School that was located at Zeitoun in the suburbs of Cairo, Egypt. On 17 February 1917 whilst conducting a class with live bombs, he was mortally wounded in the head and chest in a hand grenade accident. Alexander was taken to hospital for treatment, but due to the extent and severity of his injuries he succumbed to same the next day. The ship which took Alexander and his comrades to the Dardanelles was built in 1910 for the Ocean Steam Ship Co. she was one of three 'A' Class passenger ships built during 1910-1911 for the South Africa-Australia service. Her maiden voyage commenced on 18 November 1910 from Glasgow to Sydney, via Liverpool, Fishguard, Las Palmas, Cape Town, Adelaide and Melbourne. The service was operated on a six-weekly basis and took 39 days. When the Great War was declared she was requisitioned by the Australian Government for use as a troopship. On 2 July 1940, during a voyage as part of convoy OA 1776 from London to Glasgow where she was to finish unloading, she was sunk following

an air attack off Start Point, Devon. Being the largest vessel, and second ship in a line-ahead convoy she was singled out for a machine gun and bomb attack.

JOHNSON, JAMES FREDERICK. Company Sergeant-Major, 6939.

'D' Company, 9th (Service) Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Died 30 July 1915. Aged 27.

Born Christchurch, Cheshire. Enlisted Macclesfield, Cheshire. Resided Wrotham, Kent.

Son of the late Frederick and Alice Johnson.

Husband of Daisy Johnson of "Brattons" Stansted, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Commemorated on the Menin Gate (Ypres) Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Panel 51.

Raised at Winchester, Hampshire, and afterwards stationed at Petworth, Sussex, before moving to Aldershot, Hampshire. James's battalion had departed from Talavera Barracks, Aldershot, as part of the 42nd Brigade, 14th (Light) Division, and moved to Folkestone, Kent on 20 May 1915 en-route for France. It arrived at Boulogne and moved to nearby Ostrohove Camp, before entraining from Pont de Briques heading for Cassel the following day, whereupon the battalion marched to Zeggars-Cappel, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, near to the Belgian border. Several moves within Belgium followed throughout May and June, including time spent taking part in an attack at Hooge on 16 June 1915 during which 2 officers and 64 other ranks in the battalion became casualties. James's battalion then began tours in the 'Railway Wood Sector' of the Ypres Salient, commencing on 19 June. But of more relevance regarding James's death is that his battalion was back at Hooge in July 1915. At 0700 hours on 19 July 1915, a large mine was detonated by the 175th Tunneling Company, Royal Engineers, under a German trench position, the spoil thrown up by the explosion resulted in a lip about 15 feet high, around a crater 20 feet deep and 170 feet wide. After the firing, it was immediately occupied by two Companies of the 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, who had stood by so to do, following which British artillery repelled each and every one of the German attempts to recover the newly formed crater. Less than two weeks later, on 30 July 1915 the inevitable and expected enemy retaliation came, at which time the 'Hooge Sector' was being held by the 41st Brigade, 14th (Light) Division, which had taken over the area only the previous week. The 8th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade held the near crater lip, with the 7th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps on their right, across the road, both battalions having relieved the others of the Brigade during the night. At 0315 hours, totally unexpectedly jets of flame shot across from the German trenches, it being the first time in warfare that liquid fire flamethrowers had been used. Immediately a deluge of fire of all kinds fell on the Brigade, and also on all the support positions back to Zouave Wood and Sanctuary Wood. Not really surprisingly the Germans achieved complete surprise, but although the British front lines were evacuated, they did not follow beyond them. There was intensive hand to hand fighting in some trenches; eventually virtually all of the positions held by the Brigade were lost. The 42nd Brigade to which James's battalion belonged and located on the left was not attacked, and the left battalion of the

46th (North Midland) Division (Territorial Force) which was situated on the right held on. Division rushed up reinforcements, and a new line along the edge of the woods was eventually formed. At 1130 hours, orders were issued for a counterattack by the 41st and 42nd Brigades, which for three quarters of an hour was preceded by a not very heavy artillery bombardment of the enemy, which doubtless did little to aid those detailed to take part in the attack which followed its cessation. The 41st Brigade attack at 0245 hours by the 6th (Service) Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, failed, with none of the battalion getting nearer than 150 yards the new German positions, but James's battalion fared far better and ultimately succeeded in recovering some of the lost lines. The 43rd Brigade relived the badly mauled 41st Brigade during the late afternoon and evening. During the same night, another enemy flamethrower attack was repulsed. A surprise attack which was successfully carried out by the 6th Division on 9 August 1915 regained all of the ground lost, including the ruins of the Chateau Stables. During the first two years of the Great War, the King's Royal Rifle Corps expanded to twenty two battalions, in addition to those with training and reserve rolls at home. Fighting in the early months still favoured the traditional Rifleman's skills of fire and movement, and in 1914 at Hautesvesnes the regulars of the 1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps used those skills to destroy a whole German battalion. The later stages were not conducive to tactical innovation, but marksmanship developed in peacetime was an invaluable asset at a time of ascendancy of fire over maneuver. The vast majority of the regiments' effort was devoted to the Western Front, where it gained eight Victoria Crosses, plus 2128 other decorations, and seventy one Battle Honours, but at a staggering sad cost 12,824 deaths.

BETTS, ALFRED THOMAS. Private, M/279820.

623rd Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps.

Died 22 January 1917. Aged 29.

Born Forest Hill. Enlisted and resided Fulham.

Son of Alfred Thomas and Alice Betts of Forest Hill, London, SE23.

Husband of Jessie Maclean Betts of Forge Cottage, Stansted, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Buried Nunhead All Saints Cemetery, London, SE15, Alfred is commemorated on Screen Wall. 89. 32646, it being one of six screen wall panels in the cemetery.

Formerly Private, 30284, 29th (Works) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

It has not been possible to access a MIC entry for Alfred, and as his former battalion prior to becoming the 5th Labour Battalion, Labour Corps remained in the United Kingdom, as did the 623rd Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps. It would seem likely that Alfred had not died resultant of enemy induced wounding, or similar but possibly of an accident or illness.

BLACKMAN, HENRY GEORGE. Private, 11499.

4th Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

Died 14 September 1916. Aged 34.

Born Odiham, Hampshire. Enlisted Hartney Witney, Hampshire May 1904.

Son of Eliza Blackman of 44, Napier Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, late of Meopham, Kent, and the late Henry Blackman.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 8D.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel M. Earle D.S.O., Henry had been amongst the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards that left Southampton onboard the SS Armenian and the SS Turcoman. He had been fortunate to have not been numbered amongst the two officers and about 100 other ranks of his company that lost their lives on 24 October 1914, during a counter-attack which took place in a tobacco drying ground which unfortunately contained wire entanglements. As the 4th Company (Henry's) tried to negotiate the ground their packs became caught up on the wire which rendered them very easy targets for enemy machine gunners. During a tour of duties in the trenches in the Fleurbaix, Pas de Calais sector, Henry had been wounded in December 1914. On the date of his demise, the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards had taken part in an attack two days previously on enemy positions called Ginchy Telegraph and The Quadrilateral, and was relieved the following day and then located in Trones Wood on the Somme, having arrived there via the village of Carnoy.

BOWYER, FREDERICK CHARLES. Driver, 32524.

1st King George's Own Sappers & Miners, attached to the Royal Engineers.

Died 29 November 1917. Aged 31.

Born Stansted, Kent. Enlisted Gravesend, Kent. Resided Meopham, Kent.

Son of George and Annie Bowyer.

Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave Ref: III. F. 8.

At the time of the 1901 census the Bowyer family was residing at High Holm Meadow, Stansted, Kent, when Frederick was employed on a Farm. Frederick's corps details are as access from his CWGC commemoration, but it would seem likely that he was in fact a member of the Royal Engineers, attached to the 1st King George's Own Sappers & Miners. He has a MIC entry (Royal Engineers) with matching regimental number, and of probable equal significance on the Stansted, Kent civic war memorial the fallen have further details of their service added at each commemoration, Frederick's records him as a Royal Engineer. How helpful it would be if all the war memorials had the same details added, thereby not only saving countless hours of research, but doubtless on numerous occasions enabling positive correct identifications.

BROWN, LIONEL VERNON BROWN, Private, L/9057.

2nd. Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Died 21 October 1914. Aged 25.

Born Luton, Bedfordshire. Enlisted Guildford, Surrey. Resided Wrotham, Kent.

Son of Thomas Charles and Emily Brown of Linden Wood Cottage, Fairseat, Kent.

Buried Tyne Cot Cemetery, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Ref: LXVII E15.

Lionel was the brother of the next casualty commemorated.

As Lionel had an L prefix at his regimental number, and as he was a member of one of the Home Counties regiments he was clearly a regular soldier, and in view of the date of his death would probably have been numbered amongst those of his battalion who had sailed for England from Cape Town, South Africa onboard H.M.T. Kenilworth Castle on 27 August 1914, which arrived at Southampton on 19 September 1914. It was from the same port that Lionel's battalion left for Zeebrugge, Belgium in two parties just over a fortnight later. On 5 October, 'A' and 'B' Companies sailed on the SS Cymric, and the following day 'C' and 'D' sailed on the SS Turkoman, at the time that both parties had arrived at Zeebrugge, the battalion strength was 30 officers and 988 other ranks. The battalions' first tour of duty as part of the 23rd Infantry Brigade, 7th Division of the 4th Army commanded by General Henry Rawlinson, was at the front was on 11 October when it relieved Belgian troops in front of Melle, albeit briefly, as the battalion was moved back to Ghent later the same night. The action fought near Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen on the day that Lionel lost his life was his battalions first major encounter with the enemy during the Great War. Having fallen back to a railway embankment near Zonnebeke, the battalion moved forward to trenches situated to the east of the Passchendaele road during the night of 20/21 October, throughout the hours of darkness very little activity took place on either side of the combatants, but in the morning of the day that Lionel died, as at 0800 hours German artillery ensconced on the Passchendaele ridge commenced shelling the line which was held by 'B' and 'D' Companies, following which enemy infantry attacked all along the British line. For reasons which are not clear, at about 1000 hours 'B' Company began to retire, but fortunately 'A' Company which was well dug-in, managed to hold their positions until 1300 hours. With the troops situated on their right flank being substantially reduced in numbers and failing to hold that part of the line, and as if to add insult to injury, enemy troops had occupied the trenches formerly occupied by 'B' Company, from where they enfiladed 'A' Company with machine gun fire. As such against numerically superior enemy troops 'A' Company was forced to fall back to the ridge along the Zonnebeke-Langemarck road, which they then held with the Life Guards on the left, and by other elements of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) on the right. At 1600 hours the whole battalion was relieved by the Irish Guards, and was withdrawn to the railway embankment where new positions were taken up. As soon as it became dark, Lionel's battalion was ordered up to the nearby Passchendaele road to fill a gap in a line held by the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the South Staffordshire Regiment. Due primarily to the

intensity of the dark night it proved to be virtually impossible to locate the soldiers of the South Staffordshire Regiment, and the battalion then occupied some vacant trenches located at the east of the road in the rear line originally held which was then held by the Germans. Good fortune or call it what you will resulted in the bulk of the battalion finding 'C' Company still hanging on, having remained when the other companies had earlier retired. All ranks in the battalion having partially familiarised themselves with their new positions, fresh orders were received detailing the battalion to rendezvous near the cross roads in Zonnebeke, and to comply with same a move was made at approximately 2100 hours, following which, the battalion was then directed to take up a line on the Warwickshire Regiment's right flank, running south-east from the level crossing to the south-west of Zonnebeke. By the time the new position was reached it was 0430 hours on the morning of the following day. Lionel was numbered amongst 39 other ranks deaths in his battalion on the day he died, it having incurred a total of 178 casualties. In addition to the other ranks deaths, somewhat prematurely some records show an officer death, he being Lieutenant Edward W. Bethell of 'C' Company, son of Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander E. Bethell, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., and Hilda Mary Hon. Lady Bethell of Wadeford House, Chard, Somerset, Edward was in fact wounded on the day that Lionel Brown died, but subsequently fell whilst serving as a Captain attached to the regiments 1st Battalion on 21 September 1918, aged 26. In addition to those who died the battalion also another six officers wounded in addition to Lieutenant Bethell, and had an additional 132 other ranks either wounded or captured, in some cases both. Although time (as always) precludes more in-depth research being undertaken, it is of course unfortunately likely that amongst those wounded some may have later succumbed to their injuries, either whilst in British medical teams hands or on some cases with their captors. At least another Kent soldiers were noted as also falling on the same day as Lionel in the battalion, they being John Banks from St. Mary's Cray, George Croft from Bromley, Joseph Dowling from Folkestone, Robert Mills from Swanley, James Owden a native of Edenbridge, and Steven Stambridge from Dartford.

BROWN, VICTOR RANDOLPH. Driver, L/11631.

33rd. Reserve Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 21 July 1916. Aged 22

Son of Thomas Charles and Emily Brown of Linden Wood Cottage, Fairseat, Kent.

Buried St. Mary's Churchyard, Stansted, Kent. Grave Ref: north west part of churchyard.

In view of the comments at the brief commemoration to Victor's brother, regarding the L prefix on his regimental number, the same does not apply to Victor, as on his number its is applicable to a 'Royal Regiment of Artillery Wartime Enlistment' member of the regiment. In view of his battery details as accessed from his CWGC commemoration details, it seemed likely that Victor had not served in action abroad, but in case he had done so with another battery or regiment/corps, a check was made for a relevant MIC entry which resulted in

no match. But it is probably of real significance that in the parish church is a framed illuminated parchment, it being the 'Parish of Stansted Roll of Honour of Men who served Overseas During The Great War 1914-1918.' Omitted from their number is Victor R. Brown. Like thousands of other 'Home Deaths' who were not recorded in the series of books Soldiers Died in the Great War, and in recent years the excellent CD, Victor has no entry in/on same as both were checked. Due to lack of the easy and obvious to access details being lacking, and constraints of time, it is unfortunate that a more detailed commemoration for Victor could not be constructed for inclusion here. It should however be mentioned that as far could be ascertained when visiting Stansted to photograph the war memorial etcetera, it would appear that Victor is the sole war casualty at rest in the village churchyard, it was also noted at that time that his grieving parents had the following inscription added at the base of Victor's headstone:-

Also in Loving Memory of Pte. L.V. Brown Queen's R.W.S.
Killed in Action, Oct. 21st 1914, Age 25.

BURNETT, ERNEST JOHN. Private, G/11186.

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

Died 22 July 1916. Aged 35.

Son of Edward Burnett of 1, High Goss Cottages, Southfleet, Gravesend, Kent.

Born Stansted, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone, Kent.

Commemorated Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11C.

Like several other Kent (and other) forms of tributes to the war dead, Stansted, Kent civic war memorial also has slight mistakes on it, with Edward apparently the prime example. One of the reasons why the fallen of Stansted have been so quick and easy to research, has been that the casualties details appertaining to branch of service etcetera are also shown on the civic war memorial, all well and good if correct, but Ernest is shown as being E.C. Burnett, and as a member of the 3rd Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment which was Reserve Battalion, and would not 'fit' with his place of commemoration on the Somme. To add to the confusion surrounding Ernest second initial, is the fact that on the illuminated parchment referred to at Victor Brown's brief commemoration, he is shown as being E.E. Burnett. In the quest to 'get the right casualty' various other very basic checks were made i.e. CWGC, O/SDGW and MIC which all matched with his second initial shown as "J" or the name John. A check was also made of "The Queen's Own who were killed in action, or died of wounds or disease during the Great War, 1914-1919," and it also commemorates Ernest with his second initial shown as "J." Having now transcribed thousands of casualties on various forms of commemoration over the years, anytime a 'glitch' like the three variants of Ernest's initials is revealed it always leaves the lingering question why? Usually it transpires that it is simply a reflection of a name by which all and sundry knew the casualty concerned, and seems to be particularly prevalent where a father and son (usually eldest) have matching Christian and surnames, but it is quite unusual, but not unique to find three variants. Although the battalion with which Ernest was serving at the time of his death was a regular battalion of his regiment, as he has a Home Counties Regiments New Army (and later), it

would appear that he had served in one of the regiments Service Battalions, and possibly until only a short time prior to his death. The 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment played no part for the first two weeks in the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' but was involved in a subsidiary attack around Wailly, some five miles to the South of Arras in the Pas de Calais. Each of the battalions of the 13th Brigade took periods of trench occupation at Wailly of two full day's duration, and on the night of 2 July 1916 Ernest's battalion handed over the trenches for the last time. On the next day the battalion was conveyed by bus to Haouvrigneul, approximately eighteen miles west of Arras, where a period of ten days was spent in a state of constant readiness in anticipation of a move to the Somme sector. While the battalion was at Haouvrigneul various experimental exercises were carried out, in particular schemes to test the co-operation between aircraft and infantry. Unfortunately not all the various activities were undertaken at the same location, which resulted in a whole company being seven miles away when the orders for the move to the Somme finally were received by the battalion, whilst others were located back at Wailly constructing new trenches. After much hurried arrangements and extra miles being covered by some of the companies, but eventually the whole battalion arrived at Outrebois, seven miles to the west of Doullens at 0130 hours of the morning of 13 July. In order to assemble as a battalion at Outrebois had meant a march of 16 miles by the bulk of the battalion, 22 miles by 'C' Company, and for the unfortunate members of 'A' Company a march of no less than 31 miles duration, in full marching order during mid July. As if to compound the doubtless tired state some of the battalions soldiers were feeling the next day, it was one of uncertainty and contradictory orders, suffice to say that the march from Outrebois to Hérissart situated on the Amiens to Arras road took thirteen hours, despite being only some 16 miles apart. At mid-day on 15 July the march resumed to Franvillers, although not many miles were covered it was over three and a half hours due to the heat, dust and the already exhausted condition of the battalion personnel. Doubtless the rest of the next day was both welcome and of necessity. At 0730 hours on 17 July the 13th Brigade left Franvillers, and the battalion reached Méaulte a couple of miles to the south of Albert at 1330 hours where the remainder of the day and the following day was spent. Eventually trenches which were situated between Bazentin-le-Grand and Longueval were occupied by 'A' and 'B' Companies, in support of the 2nd Battalion, Kings Own Scottish Borderers, while 'C' and 'D' Companies took possession of a former enemy trench north of Montauban. Despite a considerable amount of artillery activity throughout the night, the battalion fortunately suffered only two casualties. This was followed by a very significant move that was undertaken by the battalion on the night of 20 July, at that time going into forward trenches in High Wood (Bois des Foureaux), which came about as the result of the enemy falling back during the night when being attacked by front line troops. 'A' and 'B' Companies occupied the track running from High Wood in a southeasterly direction, with 'D' Company in support and 'C' Company in reserve. One of the companies was badly caught by enemy artillery fire when moving up in the dark, with the 14th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment on the battalions' right flank. A tense

day was spent by Ernest and his comrades throughout the 21 July, which was spent in the trenches, but with patrols being sent out at staggered times in the hope of ascertaining the situation regarding the enemy strength and positions etcetera, as officers and other ranks of the battalion were all aware that an attack was imminent, and throughout the day the casualty roll continued to grow. Ernest's battalion had a frontage of 400 yards with its left flank touching High Wood, at which time their assigned objective Wood Lane was 400 yards to its front. Due to the contours to the ground to be covered the enemy position was out of sight, doubtlessly adding to the pre attack tension felt, the ground sloped gently upward for some 350 yards, and from the summit of which it then fell in the direction of the enemy positions for the last 50 yards. Major H.D. Buchanan-Dunlop commanding the battalion, had voiced his concerns that information and assurances supplied by another division that the entire wood was in British hands was incorrect, sadly proved to be well founded. During the day, along a ridge about 50 yards in front of Wood Lane ran a sunken road which the Germans vacated, but during the hours of darkness reoccupied primarily with machine guns. It was in failing light that 'A' and 'B' Companies left their trenches at 2152 hours and advanced without many casualties whilst following an artillery barrage which was lifted at 2200 hours, at which point the battalion charged the enemy positions that had been assigned to it for attack. Various commentators have made remarks regarding the intensity of the fire power which the battalion then encountered, primarily as the result of the fact that the artillery barrage inflicted on the enemy had apparently had very little effect. Virtually all of the battalions officers were hit as were many of the other ranks. Two German machine gun positions apparently were responsible for a lot of the casualties, they being one located in the wood and another just behind the wood. As the members of the two lead companies fell, 'C' and 'D' Companies were sent forward to reinforce them, and eventually some of the 2nd Battalion, Kings Own Scottish Borderers, and the 15th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment joined them. It has not been possible to add where, when or how Ernest lost his life, but it was probably as the result of the machine guns at High Wood on the Somme.

MARTIN, JOHN ALFRED. Lance Corporal, 4489.

28th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces.

Died 22 May 1918. Aged 21.

Born Hodsall Street, Wrotham, Kent 1897.

Son of John and Ada Sarah Martin of Cuballing, Western Australia.

Nephew of Major E.J. Coles (Salvation Army), London.

Buried Méricourt-L'Abbé Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme. France.

Grave Ref: III. B. 9.

At the time of the 1901 census the Martin family resided at Fairseat Lodge Cottage, Stansted, Kent, it being approximately eleven years prior to them emigrating to Australia.

Also commemorated on panel 114 of the Australian National War Memorial, Canberra, Australian Capital Territories, and on the Narrogin civic war memorial Western Australia. John is also named on the Cuballing civic war memorial

Western Australia, which stands in the centre of this small Western Australian wheat belt community and upon which is engraved the names of fifty-one young men who lost their lives in the Great War. This community boasted the highest per capita enlistment in the state, with some locals even arguing that it was actually the highest enlistment rate in the British Empire. Possibly a mistake by the Stone Mason resulted in John being erroneously commemorated on the Stansted, Kent civic war memorial as Private L.A. MARTIN. It was noted however that fortunately both forms of remembrance of the parish fallen, in the parish church of St. Mary's, Stansted correctly commemorate him as J.A. MARTIN. John was a native of nearby Wrotham, Kent, and had been educated at the London Board School, Kilburn Lane, Paddington, London, which had opened in 1885. He later emigrated to Australia with his parents when he was 15 years old. Aged 19 he enlisted in the 28th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces, 7th Australian Infantry Brigade, on 6 March 1916, at which time he stated that he was a Farmer, and was residing at Narrogin, Western Australia, and that his next of kin Mrs Ada Sarah Martin was then residing at Cuballing, Western Australia. Only three and a half weeks after enlisting, John departed from the port of Freemantle, Western Australia on board the 8,130 ton H.M.T. Shropshire (A9), in peacetime the troopship was owned by the Federal Steam Navigation Company of London. John's battalion was raised at Blackboy Camp, Western Australia on 16 April 1915 from recruits previously earmarked for the 24th Battalion, A.I.F. which was instead being raised in Victoria. The battalion left Australia in June, and, after two months spent training in Egypt, landed at Gallipoli on 10 September 1915. At Gallipoli, the 7th Brigade, which included the 28th Battalion, reinforced the weary New Zealand and Australian Division. The 28th Battalion had a relatively quiet time at Gallipoli and by the time that the battalion departed from the peninsula in December 1915 it had fortunately suffered only light casualties. After another period of service in Egypt, the 7th Brigade proceeded to France and the Western Front, as part of the 2nd Australian Division. The 28th Battalion took part in its first major battle at Pozières, Somme, between 28 July and 6 August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division returned to the south in October, where the 28th Battalion took part in confused and costly fighting to the east of the village of Flers, in the Somme Valley. For many of the major battles that were fought throughout 1917 the 28th Battalion found itself in supporting roles. At the second battle of Bullecourt, the battalion provided reinforcements who were nonetheless involved in heavy fighting. The 28th Battalion went on to attack as part of the third phase at the 'Battle of Menin Road,' capturing its allotted objectives in just seven minutes, and was in reserve during the 'Capture of Broodseinde Ridge.' The battalion was also in reserve for the 'Battle of Poelcapelle' on 9 October 1917, but, with the attack floundering in the mud; it soon became embroiled in the fighting. In April 1918, John's battalion fought to turn back the German Spring Offensive which had been launched on 21 March 1918, and it was during the continuation of same that John fell in battle at Méricourt-L'Abbé on the Somme, after his battalion had relieved the 21st Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces there, at which time his battalion was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Currie, C.M.G., D.S.O.

From 8 August the 28th Battalion participated in the joint British and French offensive that marked the beginning of Germany's eventual defeat. The Battalion was prominent in the fighting to secure crossing points over the Somme River around Peronne, and in the advance beyond Mont St. Quentin. The 28th's last actions of the war were fought as part of the effort to break through the 'Beaurevoir Line' in the first week of October 1918. The first members of the battalion began returning to Australia in January, and the 28th Battalion was disbanded in March 1919. John is numbered amongst the 787 members of all ranks of his battalion who lost their lives during the Great War, in addition to which 2241 were wounded.

SOLOMON, LEONARD. Rifleman, 4740.

1st/8th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles).

Died 7 October 1916. Aged 26.

Son of Sarah Ann and James Solomon.

Born Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Stansted, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9 C and 9 D.

It seemed prudent to mention that it was noticed that at the time of the (April) 1901 census, at which time the Solomon family resided at Goodmans Farm, Stansted, Kent. Leonard is probably shown with his Christian name as being Anthony? An alternative possible explanation being twins, as has been noticed when researching other casualties over the years, with only one of same being present on the night of census enumeration. Also recorded in the Book of Remembrance of the Post Office Rifles, at the church of St Botolph without, Aldersgate Street, London EC1 A 4EU. Leonard is also commemorated on his parent's headstone in the churchyard of St. Mary's, Stansted, Kent.

Formerly Rifleman, 372221, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles). As if too add to the name confusion, Private L. SOLOMAN, Post Office Rifles, is how unfortunately this casualty is erroneously commemorated on the Stansted, Kent civic war memorial, but is **probably** (hopefully) the casualty Rifleman Leonard SOLOMON, as briefly commemorated above. Leonard lost his life on the Somme, in the "gallant but unsuccessful" attack made by his division, the 47th (2nd London) Division, against a German held position called Snag Trench, to the front of the Butte de Warlencourt. The battalion had only three weeks previously suffered a substantial number of mixed casualties, amounting to a third of its strength in five days of action at High Wood of 63 killed, 50 missing and 185 wounded, before being relived and going to Hénencourt the number of casualties was in excess of 300. In view of his former regimental number it would appear that Leonard had joined the battalion before the slaughter at High Wood, and had not been in the large draft of inexperienced newcomers which arrived immediately after it, to bring the battalion back up to strength. The Butte de Warlencourt and Eaucourt-L'Abbaye were both the scenes of very fierce fighting in 1916. Eaucourt-L'Abbaye was taken by the 47th (2nd London) Division early in October. The Butte de Warlencourt was attacked by Leonard's and other divisions, but it was not relinquished by the Germans until the 26 February 1917

when they withdrew to the Hindenburg Line. On the day that Leonard died it was during General Henry Rawlinson's follow up attack which had been delayed by atrocious weather. Commencing at 1345 hours on 7 October the advance involved six divisions and resulted in notably heavy British casualties. Continuous rain during the night hampered the removal of casualties and prevented any real further forward moves. The failure to secure original battle objectives led to a renewed major assault on the afternoon of 12 October when infantry on the Fourth Army's right floundered towards German trenches in front of Le Transloy, while formations on the left slogged towards the Butte de Warlencourt. Despite the slightest of gains which were measured in hard fought for trench yards, the operation was costly and regrettably not a success apart from the capture of Le Sars by the 23rd Division. Leonard's mother Sarah Ann Solomon died 19 January 1920, aged 70 years, and his father James Solomon died 24 February 1924 aged 72 years.

STREATFIELD, BENJAMIN RALPH Private, G/1558.

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

Died 1 July 1916. Aged 22.

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

Son of Walter and Elizabeth Mercy Streatfield of Bougher's Cottage, Stansted, Kent.

Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11C. On 1 July 1916, the first (costly) day of the 'Battle of the Somme 1916,' Benjamin's battalion was initially held in a reserve position to the east of Carnoy for an attack which was to be carried out by the 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division to the western end of the village of Montauban, with zero set for 0730 hours. Eventually the bulk of the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) were sent forward in the attack, after which 'A' and 'C' Companies of the 7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) were called up to assist those at the front, and moved forward at 1100 hours to render help to the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, in a position named Train Alley. Probably more famously remembered in history for the events of the day, for having set off to cross no mans land kicking footballs, than for their unquestionable bravery, the officers and other ranks of the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment had attacked at zero hour from front line positions situated between Talus Boisé and the Carnoy-Montauban Road towards the Montauban Ridge. With the help rendered by Benjamin's battalion the remnants of the 8th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment reached its assigned objective at 1222 hours and dug in on Mametz Road. Whilst assisting in the attack, 'A' Company had been held up at the Pommiers Line with the loss of almost all officers, amongst the reasons for the set-back had been that unfortunately the 'D' Company runner was hit prior to delivering his companies orders to join in the advance, which had led to an hours delay before the Adjutant discovering the company still in the British trenches awaiting orders. Fortunately 'C' Company fared far better, and Captain T.T. Waddington and two platoons took and consolidated Montauban Alley which was an intermediate line parallel to

the actual village. At around mid-day the 30th Division reached and captured the village, which it consolidated with the assistance of elements of the Royal Engineers. Eventually the bulk of 'A' Company led by Company Serjeant Major Klein, who had taken command following the casualties to most of his companies' officers, pushed up Mine Alley and joined Captain Waddington. Prior to the arrival of C.S.M. File and his men, Captain Waddington had already been reinforced by another of platoon of 'A' Company who were led by 22 year old Second Lieutenant Harold W. File of Folkestone, Kent who lost his life on 13 July 1916 during a costly attack at Trones Wood. Between 1 and 4 July 1916 when the battalion was withdrawn to Bronfay Wood the battalion had incurred approximately 180 casualties, on the first day 28 other ranks were lost their lives, the following day 7, and on the third day another 5. Despite a number of officers being wounded, none were killed on the first day of the battle when most of their woundings took place, indeed over the same three day period that the 40 other ranks deaths shown above occurred, Lieutenant Edward J. Innocent was the only officer death recorded to the battalion, who died on 3 July, in addition to the 41 deaths for the three days, about another 140 were wounded and one missing. Edward Innocent is buried in Danzig Alley Cemetery, as are 6 other rank casualties who like Benjamin Streatfield died on the first day of the battle, but in addition to Benjamin, another 20 of those lost on the same day in his battalion are also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. It has not thus far been possible to locate any form of CWGC commemoration for Private, G/2632, Richard Arnold from Peckham, London, who was also numbered amongst the 28 other ranks who lost their lives serving in the battalion on Died 1 July 1916, it would appear that he is probably numbered of thousands of Commonwealth war dead from both world wars whose sacrifices are STILL not officially commemorated by the state. It was sad to note when visiting Stansted that Benjamin's sister died on 10 June 1922, aged 20, almost four years after her brother fell on the Somme, France, causing more grief to their parents, Walter and Elizabeth Mercy Streatfield. Walter died 20 February 1940, aged 84, and Elizabeth died 8 January 1950, aged 85.

GOODMAN, GILBERT ANTHONY Lieutenant.

Royal Air Force.

Died 28 October 1918. Aged 23.

Born 5 July 1895.

Son of Alfred William and Penelope Mary Goodman of 1, The Cloisters, The Temple, London, and "Lessness House," Belvedere, Kent.

Buried in the Tezze British Cemetery Plot 6, Row A, Grave 16.

Formerly Second Lieutenant, 10th Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

From 1909 to 1913 Gilbert had been a pupil at Westminster School, and had sat the London University Matriculation Examination, passing in English, Mathematics, Latin, Greek and French. Very quickly following the outbreak of the Great War he volunteered for military service, and spent six weeks at the Public School's Special Corps at Epsom, Surrey, before joining the Inns of Court

Officers Training Corps on 16 October 1914 aged 19. He carried out his basic training at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and incredibly quickly attaining the rank of Lance Corporal on 21 November. Gilbert's address at this time was given as 28 Shrublands Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. On the 17 December 1914, he applied for a temporary commission in the Regular Army and at that time had expressed a wish to join an Infantry Battalion, preferably in either the Norfolk Regiment or the Black Watch, but resulting from a successful interview at the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) Depot, at the Tower of London, in the well tested tradition of the British army neither of his first two choices resulted, and Gilbert was Gazetted in the rank of Second Lieutenant, in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on 24 December 1914, and was posted to the 10th (Service) Battalion (22nd Division) Army Troops, then based at Eastbourne, Sussex on 27 December. Amongst Gilbert's (comprehensive) records is a particularly interesting letter which possibly gives a clue to his apparent obscenely rapid posting to the battalion. Although the Commanding Officer of the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps, Lieutenant Colonel F. R. Eddington had unreservedly originally endorsed Gilbert's application for a commission, it would appear that for reasons unclear, he had at some point later changed his opinion slightly, as on 4 January 1915, he wrote to a Major Tathom the following communiqué: - "I do not think that G. A. Goodman is yet ripe for a commission. I told his father so a short while ago and G. A. Goodman agreed with me. With rather more training he will be all right. It is unfortunate that so many fathers think of their son's, and not of the men's lives their son's are going to have in their charge. Yours faithfully, F .R. Eddington. Lt.Col." It may have been the case that Goodman's (Barrister) father had 'pulled a few strings' to obtain an early commission for his son? In April 1915, Gilbert's battalion was transferred to the 112th Brigade, 37th Division which was then being assembled at Tidworth on Salisbury Plain, and it was here whilst living in tents at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, on 21 May 1915 Gilbert was given one month's sick leave, suffering from eczema on his face. He then appeared before a Medical Board at the Tidworth Military Hospital on 22 June 1915, and a further period of sick leave of one month duration was recommended. During this period the 37th Division was actively engaged in final training and preparations for departure to France before embarking at the end of July. On 6 August 1915, only five days after his battalion had landed in France, the War Office wrote to the Headquarters of the 37th Division at Cholderton, Salisbury, Wiltshire requesting information regarding Second Lieutenant Goodman, and asking if he had been before a further medical board, as they had no record of any further examination. The letter eventually reached Colonel William Annesley Burton Dennys, the Commanding Officer of Gilbert's battalion, who doubtless was thrilled to receive same whilst on active service in France! Colonel Dennys forwarded the letter to the 11th (Reserve) Battalion for attention, with the additional comment "as he was transferred to your Battalion some weeks ago". The 11th (Reserve) Battalion, from May 1915 to September 1915 was stationed at Billericay, Essex. A medical board convened at the Military Hospital, Warley, Essex on 13 September 1915 found that Gilbert, whose address was at time shown as being Belhus Park, Aveley, Purfleet,

Essex, had fully recovered from his disability and was now fit for General Service. Despite the size and scope of Gilbert's records, it has not at this time (March 2003) to ascertain exactly when he eventually rejoined the 10th (Service) Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, as there is no reference to his return to the battalion in its war diary, which is fairly unusual for an officer. About a year later, on 7 October 1916 Gilbert left his unit, at which time he was suffering from jaundice, and on 18 October was embarked to Dover via Calais onboard a Hospital Ship. At a Medical Board at Caxton Hall, London conducted on 30 October 1916, it was reported "that this officer suffered from Nausea, abdominal pain and Diarrhea from October 5 to 12. Jaundice supervened and lasted until October 22. Heart sound feeble and distant, rate 44. Some pyorrhoea is still present. Likely to be unfit for two months, condition caused by active service conditions." A later board conducted at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on 8 December 1916 "found no symptoms, but that he suffered from occasional attacks of dyspepsia." He was considered fit for home service and reported to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion at Felixstowe on 11 December 1916. Gilbert then became ill again with a return of the abdominal pains and jaundice and was admitted to Endsleigh Palace Hospital for Officers, Endsleigh Gardens, London on 29 December 1916. Following a further Medical Board at Caxton Hall, London on 13 January 1917, he was recommended for three weeks sick leave until 9 February. Gilbert was finally found to be recovered and fit for general duty on 22 February 1917. The battalion war diary records that Goodman rejoined the battalion on 19 March 1917 when they were at Estrée-Wamin, east of Arras, Pas de Calais, France, and preparing for "future offensive action." Just over a month after re-joining his battalion Gilbert was wounded on 28 April 1917, during an attack by the battalion on 'Greenland Hill' during the 'Battle of Arras.' After being evacuated from the front for treatment, he eventually departed from Calais on 8 May 1917 onboard the 161 ton vessel S.S. Newhaven, bound for Dover, and at that time was suffering from a gun shot wound on the left side in addition to which Gilbert had been slightly gassed. Later admitted to H.R.H. Princess Beatrice's Hospital for Officers for further treatment, he subsequently attended a Medical Board at Caxton Hall, London on 22 May 1917, which then submitted its finding resulting from same, which states, "He was hit by a rifle bullet on the left side of the abdomen. It did not penetrate but passed through the abdominal wall making a wound three inches by two inches and escaped. He was also very slightly gassed. The wound was sutured but the stitches gave way because of coughing. Wound is healing by granulation, a severe wound but not permanent. He would be incapacitated for nine weeks." Following on from his hospitalisation, Gilbert then spent a period of convalescence at the Astley Hospital for Officers, Dorchester House, Park Lane, London. On 4 July 1917 the Medical Officer at the hospital reported that "the wound had very nearly healed, and also that he had got rid of his cough. He will be considered fit for General Duties in four weeks." Another Medical Board was convened at Caxton Hall on 13 August 1917, which reported as follows, "His wound has now healed but he remains in a debilitated condition. A short extension of convalescent treatment is needed. He remains in Hospital for transfer to an Auxiliary Hospital. Fit for light duties in three weeks

and home service in six weeks." Two days later whilst a patient at the Auxiliary Hospital for Officers at Taplow Priory, Buckinghamshire, Gilbert wrote a letter to the Secretary of the War Office, which points out that he was wounded in the attack on Greenland Hill on the 28 April 1917, and requests that he be granted a wound gratuity. It probably did not help his case for the gratuity when a report was forwarded from the Auxiliary Hospital for Officers at Taplow Priory, which reporting on his condition in early September which says "he has no disability from the wound or gassing but has been suffering from boils and chronic constipation." On 25 September 1917, Gilbert wrote again to the War Office requesting a wound gratuity, and in which he repeated that he was severely wounded on Greenland Hill on the 28 April 1917, and had remained in Hospital until 6 September, and that the wound had been open for fourteen weeks. Having reported to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (Harwich Garrison) at Felixstowe, Suffolk, Gilbert attended a Medical Board there on 5 October 1917, where it was found that the wound had properly healed, and also that he stated he was feeling perfectly fit. Gilbert was then ordered to return to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, at Felixstowe. A later board convened on the 20 October 1917 at Felixstowe found that this officer was no longer incapacitated, and added that he was now fit for general service. Although by October 1917 Gilbert had been serving in the Army nearly three years, he had unfortunately spent several months of that time in various hospitals being treated for Jaundice and Eczema in addition to the wound to his abdomen and gassing. It was probably whilst in hospital or when convalescing that Gilbert took the decision to apply for attachment, or transfer to the Royal Flying Corps. Despite his past medical history, his application for service with the Royal Flying Corps accepted, later Gilbert was passed fit for pilot training at his medical examination which took place on 29 October 1917, at which time it was recorded in his medical notes that he had previously served for seven months in France and that he had been wounded. The day after passing his medical examination, Gilbert received his orders to proceed to Reading, Berkshire and to report himself to the School of Military Aviation, for 'Instruction in Aviation,' and "that he should take camp kit with him." Gilbert's orders immediately generated a reply from Eastern Command, stating that, "he was not available having been ordered overseas on 30 October." Countering same the Royal Flying Corps immediately replied that this officer was selected from Eastern Command under authority 100/Flying Corps/360 (MSIR) for the Royal Flying Corps, and application had been made for him to report at the School of Military Aviation, Reading on 30 November for instruction. The Director of Air Services then wrote to Gilbert on 7 November 1917 as follows:-

"With reference to your application to join the RFC, I am directed to inform you that your services have been applied for to the branch of the War Office concerned, but the reply received is to the effect that it is regretted that your transfer cannot be concurred in." It has not been possible to find out how, or by what means (official or otherwise) Gilbert was able to counter the refusal to the transfer by the War Office, but he appears to have quickly overcome the objections raised by the army to his application. His Royal Flying Corps Air 76

record shows that on 17 December 1917, he reported to the No1 School of Military Aeronautics at Reading, Berkshire for Pilot Training. On 13 February 1918, during the course of instruction lasting six weeks, an application for Gilbert to be given a permanent Regular Army Commission was made to General Headquarters, Home Forces by the Director of Air Organisation. This request was acknowledged and it was requested that this officer be instructed to call for an interview at an early date "in order that his suitability to hold a permanent commission be considered." Towards the end of March 1918 following on from his preliminary flying instruction at Reading, Gilbert was sent to 41 Training Squadron, R.F.C. which was part of 8 Wing based at Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, and later, on 23 May 1918 he was posted to the 72 Training Squadron, 8 Wing, R.F.C, based at Wyton, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire. Gilbert successfully graduated from Wyton on 31 July 1918, after a total of seven months quite intensive training. When he had been stationed at 72 Training Squadron, he wrote to the War Office on the 2 July 1918, requesting information regarding his application for a permanent commission in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment following his application last February, and enquiring whether this has been Gazetted. The appointment had been confirmed to the War Office on 8 May in his rank of Second Lieutenant, which had been dated to 25 October 1915. Gilbert received a reply to same dated 1 August 1918, to the effect that a notification had been posted in the London Gazette dated 12 July 1918, confirming his appointment to a permanent commission in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. When the Royal Air Force was formed on 1 April 1918 all Royal Flying Corps Pilots and Observers in the rank of Second Lieutenant automatically became Lieutenants. Having completed his general flying training, on 23 August 1918, Gilbert was posted to No 1 School of Aerial Fighting and Gunnery based at Ayr, Scotland for a course of instruction, of three weeks duration. Eventually Gilbert was posted to 66 Squadron, R.A.F. in Italy on 15 September 1918, where he joined 'B' Flight. At this time the squadron had been assisting operations on the Italian Front for approximately nine months including carrying out bombing operations against airfields and ground forces. 66 Squadron, R.A.F. bomb raid reports show that on 4 October 1918, Lieutenant Goodman along with 'ace' Captain Charles Midgley Maude (11 victories) had two direct hits on a hangar while taking part in a raid against Campoformido aerodrome, and that the following day, Lieutenant Goodman took part in a bomb raid against Egna aerodrome and dropped four 20lb bombs in the middle of some billets. Later in October 1918 the squadron had been assigned the task of destroying the enemy's kite balloons. Nine Sopwith Camel's flying in formations of three aircraft were generally detailed for these types of attacks, which also included the harassment of enemy forces from low heights. Gilbert was reported "missing, believed killed" during a 0815 hours offensive patrol which was forced to return on the 28 October, he was flying a Sopwith Camel E1579, which was seen to be shot down in flames east of Godega aerodrome at 0850 hours. Gilbert is recorded as "Missing, believed killed" in the casualty list for Italy, No. 44 dated 26 November 1918. Gilbert died just seven days before the Italian Armistice requested by the Austria-Hungary Empire was signed on 4 November 1918. It would appear from the casualty

records that he was actually the penultimate Royal Air Force casualty of the Great War Italian campaign. Some time after his sons death Gilbert's grieving father wrote a short appreciation of his late son's life with the title, "Gilbert Anthony Goodman A Memorial Sketch by his father 1895-1918." In view of the fact that Gilbert was not commemorated on the Stansted, Kent civic war memorial, and as his sacrifice is however remembered on both the Parchment Roll of Honour and the marble Stone Memorial tablet in the parish church of St. Mary's, the thought did occur that perhaps it was the above publication which had galvanized those responsible for the latter two forms of village remembrance to add Gilbert's name to both?

SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 - 1945

LANCE, GEOFFREY CHARLES PHILIP. D.S.O., Lieutenant Colonel 56660.
7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry.
Died Monday 10 July 1944. Aged 31.
Born Kent. Resided Surrey.

Son of Brigadier General Frederick F. Lance, and Gladys Maud Lance.

Husband of Daphne Yvette Lance of Selsey, Sussex.

Buried St. Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Calvados, France. Grave Ref: X.J.6.

Pre war member of the Somerset Light Infantry.

Not going exactly to plan, the 'Battle of Caen' appeared to be in real danger of becoming bogged down, and was taking on the appearance of a battle of the Great War era, with infantry soldiers on both sides holding entrenched positions. Commanded by SS-Brigadeführer Franz Witt, the young members of the 12th SS Panzer-Division Hitlerjugend ("Hitler Youth"), which at the beginning of June 1944, was declared ready for combat operations, in particular established a reputation for atrocities in the first days that it saw combat in Normandy, calling the battle of attrition their own Stalingrad as they stemmed the Canadian advance. Attack followed counter-attack without any tangible results being made by either side. Early in July, General Bernard Montgomery returned to the principle of a direct assault on the city of Caen, which commenced on the evening of 7 July when the north of the city was subjected to a devastating aerial bombardment. The following day, the Canadians flushed the SS out of Buron and Authie, while the British broke down all remaining resistance on the outskirts of Lébisey. During the evening, the German forces started to retreat, and in the morning of 9 July, the Canadians took Carpiquet, Saint-Germain-la-Blanche-Herbe, Venoix and La Maladrerie, and at long last entered Caen. Further east, the British slowly advanced through streets that had been rendered totally unrecognizable by the piles of ruins that had been accumulating ever since D-Day on 6 June. The capture of Caen and Carpiquet at the same time was followed immediately by renewed attacks west of the city in order to capture the high ground between the rivers Odon and Orne, to encircle Caen from the south,

and above all to continue to engage the main German force so it could not block an American breakout to the south. This time the attack was on a much broader front with no fewer than six divisions: the 49th and 50th attacked south to Hottot, the 59th attacked south to Noyers, the 15th Scottish was to attack Evrecy, an objective of 'Operation Epsom,' followed by the 53rd. Of particular significance regarding the 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry commanded by Geoffrey Lance was the first attack during which the 43rd (Wessex) Division was detailed to capture Hill 112 and Maltot on 10 July. The 43rd (Wessex) Division already held a bridgehead across the river Odon, which it had taken over from the 15th Scottish and the 11th Armoured Divisions when Operation Epsom was terminated on 30 June. Since then it had held the enemy Panzer Divisions that surrounded it on three sides, though the actual bridgehead was less than a mile wide consisting of little more than the banks of the river Odon and including Death Valley, so called because of the casualties from mortar bombs that burst in the narrow gorge of the river with its steep slate walls. Hill 112 was an unimpressive stretch of country covered with wheat two or three feet high, and with a few wooded copses and a number of villages on its slopes. From this elevation the entire valleys of the rivers Odon and Orne could be seen, and the Germans had said somewhat prophetically, "He who controls Hill 112 controls Normandy." Certainly the German soldiery ensconced there, clung to it desperately, and when they were driven off counter-attacked at once to regain possession. Between 29 June, when the 9th and 10th SS Panzer Divisions regained the hill, and 23 July, when they were driven from Maltot, the area around Hill 112 changed hands many times and thousands of Allied and German troops were killed or wounded on its bloody slopes. The 43rd (Wessex) Division alone lost more than 2,000 of its soldiers in the first thirty six hours of 'Operation Jupiter' to regain Hill 112. It was reported that the Odon River was quite literally dammed with corpses. The attack began before dawn on 10 July with an impressive artillery barrage, and by 0630 hours 129 Brigade, the 4th and 5th Battalions, Wiltshire Regiment, and 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry had advanced through the waist high wheat sprinkled with poppies. Due to heavy casualties, the attack came to a halt some 400 yards short of the objective at the top of the hill, although for several hours fierce close-quarter battles continued in the wheat where SS troops manned concealed machine gun nests, and noticeably refused to surrender even when wounded. The task of 130 Brigade was to capture the villages of Eterville and Maltot, after which 214 Brigade was to exploit with an armoured brigade to the river Orne. From a firm base provided by the 5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, the 4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment launched a successful attack on Eterville. At 0815 hours the 7th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment attacked Maltot, initiating what has been called "a battle of shattering intensity even by the standard of Normandy." SS Panzer troops supported by dug-in and well concealed Tiger tanks held an almost impregnable position, and even when the Hampshire Regiment were reinforced by the 4th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment no progress could be made, during which time among the many casualties were five company commanders. From Eterville the 5th Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, and Geoffrey's battalion held off repeated

savage counter-attacks, as did the 5th Battalions, Wiltshire Regiment, and 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry throughout the day. By 1500 hours it was clear that a fresh attack on Hill 112 was needed, but of the 214th, the reserve brigade, two battalions had already been committed, leaving only the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, whose Commanding Officer 29 year old Lieutenant Colonel James, from Matlock, Derbyshire had only been in command for a fortnight, since the battalions former CO had been killed in the first attack at Mouen on 27 June. With the 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry as a firm base, the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry launched an attack at 2230 hours with two companies up. The crest of the hill was reached and the battalion consolidated in an orchard, which was later renamed Cornwall Wood, in time to meet savage counter-attacks from the 9th SS Panzer Division. In fighting that continued all night, no fewer than ten counter-attacks were successfully beaten off, but when Lieutenant Colonel James was killed, and most of the officers and N.C.O's had either been killed or wounded, the remnants of the battered battalion withdrew. The CO of the 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry formed the survivors into two companies and sent them back to the wood for what has been called "the death struggle of 5th (Territorial) Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry." The final overwhelming attack left about 75 survivors, who were approximately ten percent of the original strength of the battalion. After the battle, all battalions of the 43rd (Wessex) Division required reinforcements, which, in effect, produced new battalions. Within two weeks the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry was back at full strength and in action on Hill 112, and the 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry required reinforcements of 19 officers and 479 other ranks. It is very appropriate that the 43rd (Wessex) Division's memorial is at Hill 112, it being the object of so much bloodshed in the Normandy campaign. The 7th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry, commanded by Geoffrey Lance, who had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his services in North Africa, had embarked from the port of Newhaven, Sussex on D-Day plus ten (16 June 1944) onboard the Cross Channel Steamer S.S. Biarritz, and landed over 'Juno Beach' at Courseulles sur Mer. Battalion assembly was finally completed by 25 June behind Arromanches, from there it moved due south to Brecy, Norrey, 'Hill 100,' Tourville and Verson. Of particular significance was the battalions' next battle for 'Hill 112' and the Château de Fontaine, as briefly set out above, during which time Geoffrey was sitting in a jeep which received a direct from a German 88mm gun, instantaneously killing him and 29 year old Major Richard G. Mapp, R.A. who was a Battery Commander, of the 179 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Miraculously, Captain A. Scamell who was the Adjutant of Geoffrey's battalion who was with them was only wounded. Following Geoffrey's death, command of the battalion was shared by Majors Chambers and Young. Described by Field Marshall Erwin Rommel as the cornerstone of the defence of Normandy, overlooking the city of Caen and the river Orne 'Hill 112' changed hands a number of times during attacks and counter-attacks in June & July 1944.

HOHLER, CRAVEN GORING. Wing Commander, 90000.

Royal Auxiliary Air Force. 70 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Thursday 28 November 1940. Aged 33.

Son of Edwin Theobald Hohler and Agnes Venetia Hohler (née Goring), The Court Lodge, Stansted, Kent.

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel. 3, and on the Second World War memorial plaque located in the church of St. Mary and Blaise, Boxall Priory, Sussex. Craven was educated at Kings College, Cambridge, and had enlisted in the Auxiliary Air Force during 1932. As Craven was a pilot serving in No. 70 Squadron, Royal Air Force, it came as no real surprise (despite the month) to note that at the time of his death he was engaged on a OADF (Overseas Air Delivery Flight), as his squadron was in Transport Command, R.A.F. during the early stages of the Second World War. With the Italian declaration of war in June 1940, the Middle East theatre of operations found itself desperately short of heavy bombers, resulting from same, in September 1940 Wellingtons began arriving in the squadron, and by the following month the last Vickers Valentia, with which the squadron had been equipped since 1935 had gone, the squadron was then purely a bomber unit. 70 Squadron, R.A.F. carried out its first mission of the Second World War on the night of 18 September 1940 with an attack on the Dodecanese Islands. Shortly before an air-raid warning was sounded at R.A.F. Luqa on the island of Malta, on the 28 November the OADF Wellington, T2894 flown by Craven took off at 0901 hours on the final leg of its journey from the United Kingdom to Egypt. Although the actual reason for the aircraft's non arrival in Egypt is still apparently unclear, but it is probably of significance that the intended flight direction of the bomber put it virtually directly on the course of a Malta bound convoy, which at the time was under attack from an Italian bomber force. In addition to the loss of Craven, the other five crew members also died, they being 28 year old Flying Officer John A. Gray R.A.F., 22 year old Sergeant Douglas G. Johnson R.A.F. (V.R.), 25 year old Sergeant Hugh A. Hogger R.A.F. (V.R.), 20 year old Sergeant Jack H. Jefferies R.A.F. (V.R.) and 19 year old John C. Cornish R.N.Z.A.F. The Wellington that Craven was flying being amongst the first of its type to be assigned to No. 70 Squadron following its re-equipment.

HOOPER, CHARLES KINGSLEY. Petty Officer Sick Berth, C/M 37992.

Royal Navy, H.M.S Eskimo. F75.

Died Saturday the 13 April 1940. Aged 36.

Son of Cyril Stanley and Ada Hooper.

Husband of Muriel Hooper of Fairseat, Kent.

Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 39, Column 1.

Like the other Tribal class Destroyers, the 1,883 ton H.M.S. Eskimo had trouble with her turbines and was sent for refit in September 1939. Following the refit she was back at Scapa Flow, and while in company with another destroyer of the same class, H.M.S. Ashanti, the German air force attacked for the first time on 17 October. Gun crews of H.M.S. Eskimo shot down one aircraft and later came to the assistance of the damaged former battleship H.M.S. Iron Duke. For Charles and his shipmates the winter of 1939/40 consisted of patrols, convoy duty and high speed steaming in rough weather. After a refit was completed in March

1940, H.M.S. Eskimo was ready to participate in the impending operations in Norwegian waters. During the 'Second Battle of Narvik,' on the day that Charles died H.M.S. Eskimo had her bows blown off by a torpedo, after which she managed to limp back to Skilfiord, Norway for temporary repairs. Surviving aerial bomb attacks, she was finally made ready for sea on 31 May 1940. The destroyer proceeded without incident, to the Vickers-Armstrong yard at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England for a rebuild. By September 1940, the work was completed and Eskimo re-joined the 6th Destroyer Flotilla. During the naval engagement fought on the day that Charles died, the Royal Navy had several successes, with a force which consisted of the battleship H.M.S. Warspite and eight destroyers under the command of Vice Admiral William Whitworth, who later became Admiral Sir William Jock Whitworth, K.C.B., C.B., D.S.O. The German force consisted of eight destroyers under the command of Fregattenkapitän (Commander) Erich Bey, and also two U-boats in the Fjord. The first battle of Narvik had left most of the German Destroyers damaged and the Admiralty was in no mood to let them rest, and to that end Vice Admiral Whitworth was ordered to mount the second attack with a battleship for support. Fregattenkapitän Bey had ample warning of the attack as Germany's 'B' Service enabled Admiral Erich Raeder to warn him of an attack to be expected on the 13th. At 1300 hours the Kunne was escorting the damaged Koellner towards Lindstrand, where she was to ambush any entering ships, when Vice Admiral Whitworth's ships were sighted entering the narrows. On seeing H.M.S. Warspite the Kunne sensibly retired up the fiord, leaving the Koellner to head for Bjervik Bay. She may have remained unsighted except that H.M.S. Warspite had launched her Walrus amphibious aircraft which had spotted the enemy ship. She was sunk with torpedoes and gunfire from H.M.S. Bedouin and H.M.S. Eskimo as well as 15 inch salvos from H.M.S. Warspite. The Walrus amphibious aircraft then spotted the submarine U-64 in Herjangs Fiord, and sank her with a 350lb bomb. Further up Ofot Fiord Vice Admiral Whitworth's force met the Kunne, Ludemann, Zenker and Armin. H.M.S. Eskimo pursued Kunne into Herjangs Fjord where she was beached and sunk with a torpedo. Zenker and Armin retired up Rombaks Fjord. The Royal Navy force then entering Narvik harbour where the Giese was quickly reduced to a hulk. Roeder came under fire from H.M.S. Warspite then H.M.S. Cossack before blowing up. H.M.S. Eskimo, H.M.S. Bedouin, H.M.S. Forester, H.M.S. Hero and H.M.S. Icarus set off after the German destroyers who had fled towards Rombaks Fiord. Charles doubtless lost his life when the Thiele blow the bow off H.M.S. Eskimo as she entered the Fiord, before Thiele was run aground before capsizing. Ludemann was pursued up to the head of the Fiord, where the Arnim and Zenker had already been scuttled by their respective crews. The Ludemann was boarded by the Royal Navy crews, before the ship was eventually destroyed by a torpedo Of the German forces which took part in 'Second Battle of Narvik,' only the submarine U-51 commanded by 28 year old Kapitänleutnant Dietrich Knorr survived by escaping out to sea. U-51 was sunk on 20 August 1940 in the Bay of Biscay west of Nantes, France, by a torpedo from the British submarine H.M.S. Cachalot with the loss of all 43 hands including Dietrich Knorr. Erich Bey was promoted to

Konteradmiral (Rear Admiral) and died onboard the battleship Scharnhorst on Boxing Day 1943, aged 45.

COLEGATE, ARTHUR WILLIAM Leading Stoker, D/KX89777.

Royal Navy, H.M.S. Glorious. (77).

Died Sunday 9 June 1940.

Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. Panel 40, Column 3.

Controversial is probably a polite description of the furor that the loss of Arthur's ship and the two others with her still generates, when discussions (official and unofficial) are embarked upon by historians and other interested parties, as such what follows is not the transcribers views or opinions but simply 'snippets' of data etcetera appertaining to the loss of the three Royal Navy ships, and the damage to their opponents on 9 June 1940. On the afternoon of Saturday 8 June 1940, the 26,500 ton Courageous class aircraft carrier H.M.S. Glorious, built by Harland & Wolff Ltd. (Belfast, Northern Ireland), as a light battle cruiser and commissioned on 14 October 1917, she was commanded by Captain Guy D'Oyly-Hughes D.S.O. and bar, D.S.C., R.N. At the time of her loss she was being escorted by the destroyers H.M.S. Acasta, commanded by Commander Charles Glasfurd, R.N., and H.M.S. Ardent, commanded by Lieutenant Commander J. F. Barker, R.N. All three ships were intercepted in the Norwegian Sea by the German battlecruisers Gneisenau and Scharnhorst. During the engagement which followed the three Royal Navy ships were sunk by gunfire in a little over two hours, with the loss of over 1500 officers and men of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Air Force, and with between just 43 and 39 survivors, depending on what book or newspaper etcetera is read. Upon his return to Trondheim, Vice-Admiral Wilhelm Marschall, the German commander responsible for sinking the three ships, instead of receiving praise, was relieved of his command for disobeying orders (to attack shipping at Harstad), endangering his ships (by attacking an old aircraft carrier), and expending too much ammunition. Although worse was yet to come, while escorting her damager sister ship back to Germany for repairs, Gneisenau was torpedoed by the British submarine Clyde, following which both the Gneisenau and Scharnhorst subsequently spent many months in dockyard hands. In 1970, Captain Stephen W. Roskill D.S.C., R.N. who had earlier written the Royal Navy's official and authoritative war history, expressed his view about why H.M.S. Glorious left the convoy. Following preliminary research, he wrote a letter to a senior member of the staff at the Royal Naval Staff College at Greenwich and said:- "the shortage of fuel theory is bunkum." Ten years later and after much more detailed work, he took the debate further in a long article that appeared in The Times. He stated:- "The answer is distressing. The Admiralty has tried to suppress the truth for forty years, but it looks as though 1,515 men were killed partly as a result of a whole chain of Admiralty errors." The same man, twenty years earlier, had been charged with the responsibility of writing the official history of the Royal Navy. The MOD's Naval Historical Branch, apparently unaware that Captain Roskill had changed his mind about what happened, used his official war history as recently as 1997 to support its theory that a lack of fuel was fundamental to H.M.S.

Glorious's decision to depart from Norway. There has however never been supporting evidence that a shortage of fuel was the reason for H.M.S. Glorious's independent return from Norway. The arithmetic of H.M.S. Glorious's ton per mile figures would seem to decimate the MOD's certainty. Furthermore, if a ship is low on fuel, as H.M.S. Glorious was, with up to a third of her boilers shut down, she cannot raise full power and speed in an emergency. She was a lightly armed and thinly armoured Second World War (converted) carrier, but she should not have proceeded independently. Had she remained under the protection of other warships, she would have been steaming at convoy speed, which would have consumed less fuel. The truth may lie in a totally different direction, H.M.S. Glorious may well have become detached from the greater safety of the convoy because of a serious breakdown in relations among her senior officers, and sadly she was an unhappy ship. Her commander, Captain Guy D'Oyly-Hughes, was an exceptionally brave and distinguished veteran of submarine warfare in the Great War, but he seems to have probably been unsuited to commanding a carrier, with the adage "horses for courses" possibly being applicable. He was known to be ill at ease with the role of air power at sea, and regrettably seemed unable to work in unison with some officers, notably some members of the Royal Air Force. These *facts* have since led to the theory that H.M.S. Glorious' request to proceed independently was to expedite a Court Martial. A poor relationship between Captain D'Oyly-Hughes and his Commander (Flying), J.B. Heath had broken down completely during the aircraft carriers previous deployment to Norway, after Heath had refused the Captain's orders to use his Swordfish to attack certain ill-defined targets ashore. Heath refused, on the ground that the aircraft were unsuitable to the task, and the aircrews were untrained for such a venture. Left behind at Scapa Flow awaiting his trial for disobedience of those orders, J.B. Heath escaped the H.M.S. Glorious disaster, and continued having a successful career, including becoming the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Heron the Fleet Air Arm Station.

GOULD, EDWARD ROY. Private, 14710191.

8th (Lothians and Peeblesshire) Battalion, Royal Scots.

Died 2 May 1945. Aged 19.

Born North London. Resided Kent.

Buried Hamburg Cemetery, Germany. Grave Ref: 2A F9.

Edward's battalion remained in the United Kingdom until leaving for Normandy, where it arrived on 14 June 1944, as part of the 15th (Scottish) Division. The division being at the start of the Second World War a Second Line Territorial Army Division, and was a duplicate of the 52nd (Lowland) Division. Placed on Lower Establishment in November 1941, the division was placed on Higher Establishment and reorganised as a Mixed Division in March 1943, and leading up to the long awaited invasion of Europe it was re-organised as an Infantry Division in September 1943. 8th (Lothians and Peeblesshire) Battalion, Royal Scots landed with their division in Normandy on 14 June 1944 to take part in 'Operation Overlord.' For three days from 8 July through to 11 July 1944 during the fighting for the city of Caen, the 44th Infantry Brigade, to which Edward's

battalion belonged was temporarily transferred from the 15th (Scottish) to the 53rd (Welsh) Division. The battalion then fought throughout the North West Europe Campaign until the cessation of hostilities. Entering Belgium in September 1944, Edward's battalion took part in clearing the Scheldt Estuary, and on into the Netherlands to the Nijmegen Salient, and also took part in 'Operation Veritable.' The battalion crossed the river Rhine in March 1945, and advanced into the Lower Rhineland and then crossed over the river Emms, eventually arriving on the outskirts of Aurich, Lower Saxony a small town situated equidistant of Wilhelmshaven and Emden. It would appear that Edward was quite literally the last member of his battalion to lose his life before V.E. Day, although a number of post 8 May 1945 deaths in his battalion have been noted whilst researching Edward's death. The allies were so sure of victory by the time that Edward's battalion reached Aurich, that the allied authorities even told the Germans when they intended to clear the town, and the surrounding area, mopping up the final resistance being undertaken by various (notably youthful) factions. The reason for informing the Germans of the intended operations was to allow for as many as possible of Aurich's 45,000 civilians' time to be safely evacuated. It was during these operations that Edward lost his life in the forest on the outskirts of the town, probably as the result of a die-hard fanatic. As Edward had a General Service Corps army number, (post September 1943) it would indicate that combined with his age at the time of his death he had not been a soldier very long. The Royal Scots Regimental Monument in Princess Street Gardens, Edinburgh, commemorating the regiments' war dead, was unveiled by H.R.H. Princess Mary, Colonel in Chief on 5 August 1952. On 1 July 1968 H.M. The Queen unveiled an extension of the Monument in the form of a Memorial to H.R.H. Princess Mary. On 22 May 1983 a Norway maple and several Golden Cypress trees were presented to the City of Edinburgh in a small ceremony in Princes Street Gardens to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the Regiment.

Addenda. Although the brief tributes the war dead of Stansted, Kent, were *completed* in 2003, it felt right to add the following here at Edwards commemoration. On Friday 26 May 2006, H.R.H. the Princess Royal took the salute from hundreds of soldiers past and present at an emotional "farewell march" to the Royal Scots. In excess of 500 serving soldiers and veterans, including those having returned from Iraq just days before, brought the city centre of Edinburgh to a standstill for the parade, marking the end of the Edinburgh regiment's proud 373 year history. H.R.H. Princess Anne, the Colonel in Chief of the regiment, watched the spectacle from the steps of the Royal Scottish Academy. Despite the former regiments members well deserved reputation for its steely fighting qualities, various commentators noticed that not many of the veterans, including those of the Second World War, many in their traditional Glengarry caps, left the sad but proud parade dry-eyed. The Royal Scots have now been merged with the King's Own Scottish Borderers to become a battalion of the new Royal Regiment of Scotland.

NASH, PETER ALBERT, Pilot Officer (Pilot), 172182.

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 630 Squadron, Royal Air Force.

Died Monday 15 May 1944. Aged 22.

Son of Albert and Muriel Nash.

Husband of Winifred Nash of Stansted, Kent.

Buried Cambridge City Cemetery, Cambridgeshire. Grave Ref: 14308.

630 Squadron, R.A.F. was formed on 15 November 1943 at East Kirkby, Lincolnshire, from 'B' Flight of 57 Squadron, R.A.F. as part of No.5 Group Bomber Command. Equipped with Lancasters, the squadron began its bombing operations almost immediately after its creation, when on the night of 18/19 November 1943 nine of its aircraft took part in a raid on Berlin which was carried out by 440 Lancasters and 4 Mosquitos. For the remainder of the Second World War the squadron took part in the strategic air offensive against Germany. The last bombing raid was on the night of 25/26th April 1945 when four Lancasters laid mines in Onions area (Oslo fjord off Horten). After carrying out transport duties for a few weeks after the end of the war, at which time it was primarily engaged on flights returning former prisoners of war to the United Kingdom, surplus to post war requirements the squadron was disbanded on 15 July 1945. Although only being in existence for less than two full years, 630 Squadron, R.A.F. carried out a total of 2,453 sorties, dropped a total a total bomb load of 10,347 tons, in addition to having laid approximately 800 sea mines in enemy waters. Although seventy members of the squadron won gallantry awards, 59 of the squadrons Lancasters were actually lost in action, in addition to which 11 crashed. Despite checking various data, including the 'indispensable and excellent' "Royal Air Force, Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War," by W.R. Chorley, it has not been possible to find out thus far, what was the cause of Peter's death. Having checked the above books from the date of Peter's demise, back to the date of 630 Squadron, R.A.F. being formed on 15 November 1943, with nil results and have been left wondering if his death was result of an accident or similar?





GOD OF OUR FATHERS, KNOWN OF OLD
LORD OF OUR FAR-FLUNG BATTLE-LINE
BENEATH WHOSE AWFUL HAND WE HOLD
DOMINION OVER PALM AND PINE -
LORD GOD OF HOSTS, BE WITH US YET
LEST WE FORGET - LEST WE FORGET!

THE TUMULT AND THE SHOUTING DIES,
THE CAPTAINS AND THE KINGS DEPART
STILL STANDS THINE ANCIENT SACRIFICE,
AN HUMBLE AND A CONTRITE HEART,
LORD GOD OF HOSTS, BE WITH US YET
LEST WE FORGET - LEST WE FORGET!

FAR-CALLED OUR NAVIES MELT AWAY
ON DUNE AND HEADLAND SINKS THE FIRE
LO, ALL OUR POMP OF YESTERDAY
IS ONE WITH NINEVEH AND TYRE!
JUDGE OF THE NATIONS, SPARE US YET
LEST WE FORGET - LEST WE FORGET!

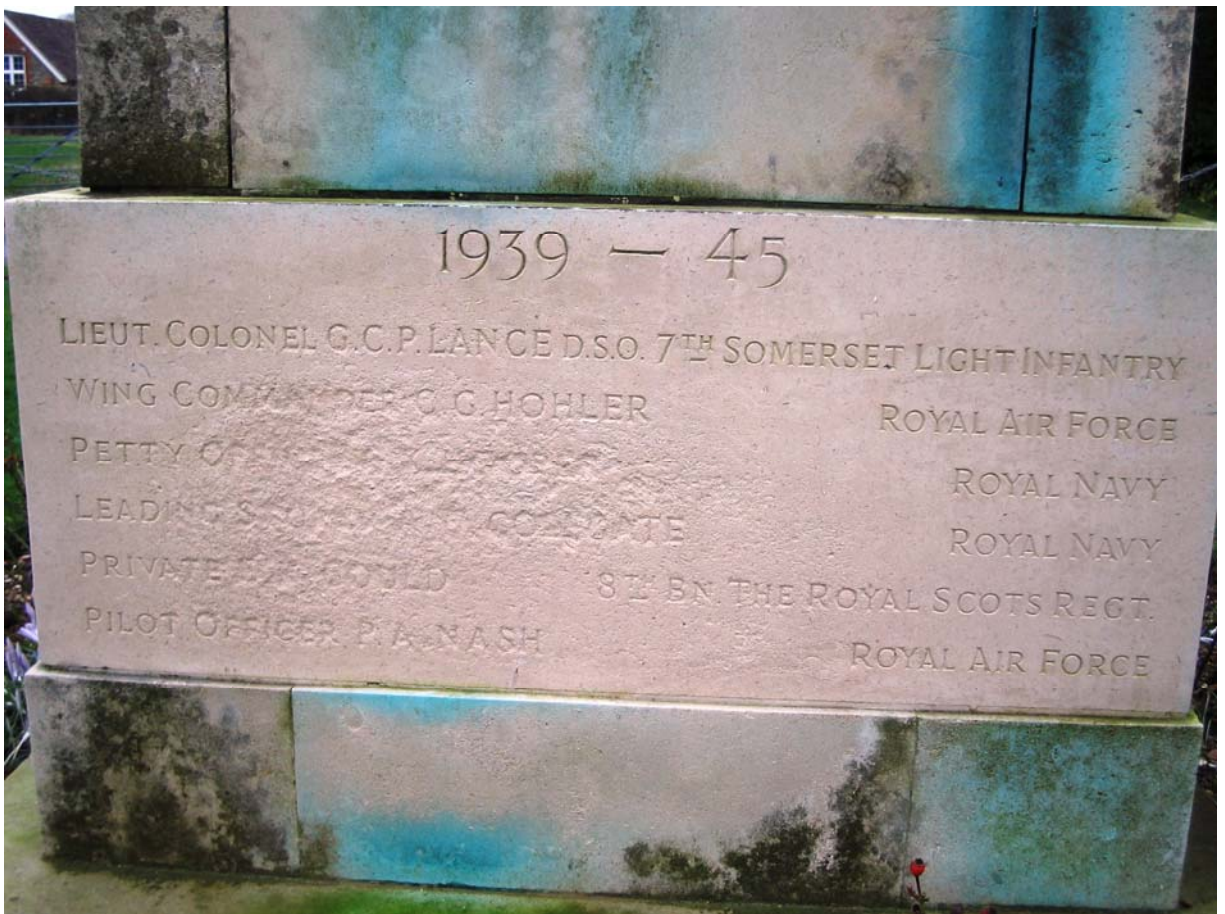
IF DRUNK WITH SIGHT OF POWER WE LOOSE
WILD TONGUES, THAT HAVE NOT THEE IN AWE
SUCH BOASTINGS AS THE GENTILES USE
OR LESSER BREEDS WITHOUT THE LAW -
LORD GOD OF HOSTS, BE WITH US YET
LEST WE FORGET - LEST WE FORGET!

FOR HEATHEN HEART THAT PUTS HER TRUST
IN REEKING TUBE AND IRON STEAR,
ALL VALIANT DUST THAT BUILDS ON DUST
AND GUARDING CALLS, NOT THEE TO GUARD,
FOR FRANTIC BOAST AND FOOLISH WORD -
THY MERCY ON THY PEOPLE, LORD!

AMEN

TO THE FALLEN
1914 - 1918

LIEUT. COLONEL A.G. KEMBALL C.B. D.S.O. 54TH CANADIANS
MAJOR W.N. PITT 2ND BN. LINCOLNSHIRE REGT.
LIEUT. AND ADJUTANT J. M. PITT 1ST BN. DORSET REGT.
LIEUT. G. A. GOODMAN ROYAL AIR FORCE
SERGT. MAJOR A. KIRTON 11TH BN. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
CO. SERGT. MAJOR J. F. JOHNSON 9TH BN. KINGS ROYAL RIFLE CORPS.
PRIVATE A. T. BETTS ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS.
GUARDSMAN H. G. BLACKMAN 1ST BN. GRENADIER GUARDS
DRIVER F. BOWYER ROYAL ENGINEERS
PRIVATE L. V. BROWN 2ND BN. ROYAL WEST SURREY REGT.
DRIVER V. R. BROWN 6TH ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY
PRIVATE E. C. BURNETT 3RD BN. ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.
PRIVATE L. A. MARTIN 28TH BN. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
PRIVATE L. SOLOMAN POST OFFICE RIFLES
PRIVATE B. R. STREATHFIELD 7TH BN. ROYAL WEST KENT REGT.



1939 - 4

LIEUT. COLONEL G. C. P. LANCE D.S.O. 7TH

WING COMMANDER C. G. HOHLER

PETTY OFFICER

LEADING SERGEANT G. G. ANTE

PRIVATE J. W. WOOD

8TH BN

PILOT OFFICER P. A. NASH



