Sturry

To the glory of God and in grateful remembrance of our Glorious Dead 1914 - 1918

G. Baker
W. Baker
W. Bentley
A. Bourne
A. Bourne
L. Bowler
E. Burb
S. Champs

R. Court
P. Divers
C. Elvey
W. Fagg
J. Farrier
J. Cambrill
H. Cammon
L. Hills
The civic war memorial at Sturry, Canterbury, Kent, is located in the churchyard of the parish church of St. Nicholas, and was erected in 1921. As can be seen from the accompanying photographs it is in excellent condition. Within the church is a private memorial plaque in memory a Great War Nursing Sister. The Lady Chapel in the north aisle of St. Nicholas contains a Book of Rememberance, and the War Memorial tablet recording the names of the local casualties of the Second World War, including the Sturry civilian parishioners who died. A lone German aircraft dropped two parachute mines on the village at about 1900 hours on Tuesday 18 November 1941. One of the mines landed near some allotments causing only minor damage, injuries or loss of life. In stark contrast to that dropped near the allotments, was the second device which landed outside the Red Lion Public House, demolishing and damaging many of the houses in the centre of the High Street, killing fifteen people and injuring several others. Various data sources checked show the date of the above raid as having taken place on a number of different dates, ranging between Tuesday 18 and Saturday 22 November 1941. Of particular significance is an article which appeared in the Daily Herald newspaper dated Wednesday 19 November 1941, which was entitled ‘Death comes at night to the High Street.’ Although the article reported the raid as having taken place on Wednesday, on a village in South East England, it would seem likely that the erroneous date entered was done on purpose, in much the same way that due to the necessity of wartime census restrictions, Sturry was not named. Another significant day that resulted in the loss of life to Sturry natives and residents during the Second World War was Saturday 31 October 1942. For some time prior to that date, a large scale daylight “Vergeltungsangriff” (Vengeance attack) had been planned for Canterbury by the Luftwaffe, because Adolf Hitler had ordered more attacks on England, in retaliation for the R.A.F. Bomber Command night offensives on Germany. Much to the disgust of the fighter pilots of Jagdgeschwader 26, aka the “Abbeville Kids,” it fell to them to carry out the bombing raid on the city. With bomb racks and bombs mounted beneath their Fokker-Wolf FW 190A-4 fighter aircraft, a mixture of sixty eight ‘bombers’ and escorting fighters were committed to taking part in the ‘Canterbury Raid,’ including six aircraft that were detailed to carry out a separate diversionary attack. As is the same regrettable situation with virtually every other location throughout Kent, and elsewhere in the United Kingdom, several local service and civilian casualties of both world wars have not been remembered at the village, all of which that were located whilst researching Sturry are added below as “Lost Casualties.” This update on the Sturry casualties has been added on this website, as a direct response to numerous requests for same. Fortunately, due to a number of reasons, the Sturry war memorial, and the memorial plaques in the parish church of St. Nicholas, have been amongst the easiest in Kent to research and transcribe which is a very welcome change, and is the reason why the following has been added so quickly following the requests for this update.
BAKER, GEORGE WILLIAM. Private, T/2434.  
1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Died Friday 7 January 1916. Aged 18.  
Son of William Baker and Lydia Caroline Baker (née Gransden) of Mayton Lane, Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
At the time of the 1901 census, the Baker family resided at Reed Street, Cliffe-at-Hoo, Rochester, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Deeping, Lincolnshire native William Baker, who was employed as a Farm Waggoner. George’s father was born in 1869 and died in 1951, and his mother was born at High Halstow, Rochester, Kent in 1872 and died in 1942. Probably the family member who is best still remembered in the village of Sturry is George’s niece, the late Mrs. Beryl Eileen Frances Foster (née Baker) who was a veteran of the Women’s Royal Naval Service. Born in Sturry on Thursday 11 October 1928, Mrs. Foster died on Sunday 18 February 2007 in Canterbury, Kent, of course she never knew her late uncle George who was killed in action in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) during the ‘Battle of Sheikh Sa’ad.’ At the commencement of the Great War the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) had its headquarters at the Drill Hall, Newtown Road, Ashford, Kent, and was in the Kent Brigade, Home Counties Division. At the time of George’s death, the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Munn-Mace, T.D. from Tenterden, Kent, who was a pre Great War Territorial Force officer and had originally served with the 2nd (Kent & Cinque Ports) Volunteer Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Cranbrook, Kent. Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on Tuesday 1 June 1909, Joseph had been in command of the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) when it sailed from Southampton for India on 30 October 1914. Lieutenant-Colonel Munn-Mace had remained in command when the battalion was ordered to Mesopotamia, arriving at Basra on Monday 6 December 1915 in the 35th Indian Division. On Tuesday 4 January 1916, George’s battalion was at Ali-el-Gharbi, Mesopotamia, from where it moved up the river Tigris towards Sheikh Sa’ad, which is about 20 miles downstream of Kut, with all surplus stores being carried by river barges. The battalion only marched about eight miles due to the prevailing inclement weather conditions, combined with the terrain which was encountered by the battalion. During the day it was extremely hot, but at nighttime the temperature dropped to below freezing, and rations at the time consisted mainly of bully beef and hard tack biscuits. On Thursday 6 January the march was resumed and enemy outposts were reached, and engagements with the enemy commenced shortly after midday, fortunately however casualties to the battalion were surprisingly light. On Friday 7 January
1916 the ‘Battle of Sheikh Sa’ad’ was fought, at a point where the Turkish Army had established a camp which held approximately 4,000 troops. During the battle, the 1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) advanced towards the enemy, but as with the other units also attacking the entrenched Ottoman forces during the battle, it did so without the help of supporting artillery, it being in stark contrast to the opposition, as the battalion came under an extremely heavy Turkish artillery bombardment. As the day wore on the battalion started to suffer increasing casualties, which included the death of the battalion Adjutant, 24 year old Lieutenant Hugh Stephen Marchant, from Matfield, Paddock Wood, Kent. In addition to the loss of the Adjutant, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph M. Munn-Mace was wounded, as was Major Eric Clarke. George was numbered amongst the thirty seven other ranks in his battalion who were killed in action at Sheikh Sa’ad on Friday 7 January 1916. Despite the Turkish forces which were encamped at Sheikh Sa’ad being in a clearly advantageous position, at the end of the day the position remained a stalemate. Under the cover of darkness, several intelligence gathering patrols were sent out from various British and Empire units, all of which on returning to their lines reported that the enemy forces had by that time withdrawn further up the river Tigris. The Turkish commander General Nur-Ud-Din had taken the decision to make the move, which a number of commentators have referred to as having been carried out very quietly, and probably swiftly. No one knew why the Turkish commander had made the strange decision to move his forces from Sheikh Sa’ad, but as the result of same he was sacked was only a few days later on Monday January 10 being replaced by Khalil Pasha. The month before the ‘Battle of Sheikh Sa’ad’ was fought, General Nur-Ud-Din when commanding the besieging force at Kut-al-Amara had attempted to offer Major-General Sir Charles Townshend immediate terms of surrender. He sent one of his Staff Captains under a white flag, with a personal letter outlining his demand which was rebuffed, and the Turkish Captain was sent back with a scathing retort written by Major-General Townshend. As all the 37 members of the battalion who died on Friday 7 January 1916 at Sheikh Sa’ad, are recorded as having been killed in action, perhaps the way that they lost their lives could in truth be described as in some ways being fortunate. British casualties at Sheikh Sa’ad were in excess of 4000, but the provision of adequate medical capacity and supplies had not been high on the list of priorities for the limited transport from Basra, and the under equipped Field Ambulances struggled really hard to cope with the high numbers of patients. The Meerut Division had the capacity to cope with 250 casualties, but was faced with quite literally thousands. More than 1000 wounded men were still lying out in the open, with barely even basic first-aid being administered to them to ease their suffering, a full eleven days after the cessation of the fighting and the departure Turkish troops. Of these, approximately 100 of their number were also suffering from Dysentery, and many of those soldiers serving in the Territorial Force who had been wounded during the ‘Battle of Sheikh Sa’ad,’ later sadly succumbed to their woundings over the subsequent days and months.
BAKER, WILLIAM ARTHUR. Driver, 59566.  
9th Battery, 34th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.  
Died Saturday 20 July 1918.  
Son of Annie Elizabeth Baker (née Petley) and the late Ralph Baker of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
Husband of Elizabeth Baker of Meadow Cottages, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  

At the time of the 1891 census, the Baker family resided at Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 49 year old Sturry native Ralph Baker, who was employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. Doubtless the order and discipline of army life was fairly easy for William to cope with, as at the time of the 1901 census he was recorded as being a 12 year old Inmate, from Sturry, Canterbury, Kent, at the Home of The National Incorporated Waifs Association, Mile End, Old Town, London, which was otherwise known as a Dr. Barnardo’s Home. William enlisted in the army for 6 years with the Colours and 6 years in the Reserve on Thursday 30 September 1909. When he enlisted, William stated that he was 20 years and 5 months old. William was recorded as being aged 22 and single at the time of the 1911 census, and was serving in India as a Driver in the 13th Battery, 1st Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, which was commanded by 48 year old Lieutenant-Colonel William Kelty McLoud, D.S.O. William was still serving as a regular soldier when he was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Sunday 16 August 1914, as a Driver in the 34th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Until Sunday 31 March 1918 William had been a Bombadier, at which time he had reverted to the rank of Driver at his own request. Aged 52, William’s father; Ralph Baker died in 1893, and was buried in St. Nicholas Churchyard, Sturry on Saturday 27 May 1893. Having been a widow for 35 years, William’s mother who was also a native of Sturry died in 1928 at the age of 79, and was buried in St. Nicholas Churchyard on Tuesday 24 April 1928, her funeral service not having been conducted in the parish church.

BENTLEY, WILLIAM GEORGE. Private, 58405.  
6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment.  
Son of Jesse Bentley and Elizabeth Bentley (née Jones) of Owls Hatch, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent.  
Williams’ father married fellow Sturry native Miss Elizabeth Jones, at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Saturday 16 October 1897. At the time of their marriage Jesse Bentley was recorded as being employed as a Labourer. Jesse was a former member of the Royal Navy, in which had served with the Official Number 146921. Elizabeth who was the daughter of Charles Jones who was recorded in the parish records as being a Retired Soldier. At the time of the 1901 census, the Bentley family resided at Broad Oak Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 31 year old Sturry native Jesse Bentley, who was
employed as a Wood Cutter. William’s mother was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 33 year old native of Sturry. At the time of submitting a formal application to be furnished with William’s war medals on Friday 10 August 1923, his father Jesse Bentley (1870 – 1948) was residing at Cole Wood Farm, Studd Hill, Eddington, Herne Bay, Kent. William was numbered amongst the 44 other ranks who were serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment when they lost their lives on Sunday 29 September 1918 of which 5 were natives of the county of Kent.


At the time of the 1901 census, the Bourne family resided at Rushbourne Cottages, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Selling, Faversham, Kent native Ernest Albert Bourne, who was employed as a Groom and Gardener. Albert was numbered amongst the 92 other rank casualties which were suffered by his battalion on the day that he died. Having moved into the Redan sector of the Somme on Tuesday 7 November, the 17th (Service) Battalion, (1st Football) Middlesex Regiment, as part of the 6th Brigade, 2nd Division took part in an attack on the Redan Ridge, on Monday 13 November 1916, its designated objective being what was left of the devastated Pendant Copse, which was located behind the German second line of trenches. The Redan Ridge lies to the north of the village of Beaumont-Hamel, and was named from The Redan, which were a group of British front-line trenches of 1916. The ridge was fought over twice in 1916, firstly on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme on Saturday 1 July, and secondly at the end of the Somme battles in November; the latter being that which commenced on Monday 13 November. In the November attack, north of the river Ancre, the assault was carried out by the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division; it was the first time it had taken part in a major action on the Western Front since arriving from Gallipoli. The 63rd (Royal Naval) Division successfully attacked and captured the German front line despite heavy resistance by the enemy. Further north, the attack which was led by the 51st (Highland) Division made less progress; combined with the enemy resistance encountered, the ground conditions underfoot and swirling fog hampered the attacks. Despite the problems which were encountered, the villages of Beaumont and Beaumont Hamel were both captured, and the units of the 2nd Division including Albert’s battalion captured parts of the Redan Ridge. Albert was one of seventeen Kent natives who lost their lives serving in the 17th (Service) Battalion, (1st Football) Middlesex Regiment at the Redan Ridge on Monday 13 November 1916. Albert was a brother of Arthur Prince Wales Bourne who is the next casualty that is briefly commemorated below.
BOURNE, ARTHUR PRINCE WALES. Private, G/17532.
2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment.
Died Friday 1 September 1916. Aged 18.
Son of Ernest Albert Bourne and Agnes Bourne (née Hammond) of 2, Maypole Cottages, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 C, as shown above.
Formerly Private, 2892, Royal East Kent Yeomanry. Arthur was born at the Prince of Wales Public House, Maypole, Hoath, Canterbury, Kent, which is doubtless the reason why he had the Christian names Prince Wales. For 1901 census details, please also see the brief commemoration of Arthur's brother Albert Ernest Bourne above. Arthur's place of enlistment as shown above was accessed from 'Soldiers Died in the Great War,' and might of course be correct. It has been noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations however, that when addition details such as service papers of soldiers who where members, or former members of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry, that many, indeed probably the majority are recorded in/on SDGW as having enlisted at Canterbury, when in fact they had actually enlisted at the hamlet of Broad Oak which is adjacent to Sturry, and as such in view of where Arthur resided at the time of enlisting in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry, it would seem likely that he had actually enlisted at nearby Broad Oak. In view of the battalion in which Arthur was serving at the time of his death, mention should be made of the fact that approximately 5 miles from Sturry is the village of Herne, they are linked by the A291 road. Herne was the birthplace of Sergeant Harry Wells V.C. who was one of the most famous soldiers to serve in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Harry won a posthumous Victoria Cross when the battalion took part in the attack in the vicinity of the Lone Tree in front of Hulluch, Pas de Calais, France on Saturday 25 September 1915 during the 'Battle of Loos.' From fairly early in the Great War the battalion had been given the unofficial title "The Iron Regiment," as an unsolicited testimonial by German prisoners captured on Sunday 1 November 1914. Of the 4 Victoria Cross's which were awarded to members of the Royal Sussex Regiment during the Great War, 2 were award to members of Arthur's battalion. Second Boer War veteran Acting Lieutenant-Colonel (later Major-General) Dudley Graham Johnson, was commanding the battalion when he won the Victoria Cross on Monday 4 November 1918 at Sambre Canal, France, during the 'Second Battle of the Sambre, which was part of the final Allied offensives of the Great War. The 'Soldiers Died in the Great War,' entry in remembrance of Arthur, shows him as having been killed in action, which again might or might not be correct, his being the sole other ranks fatality suffered by his battalion on Friday 1 September 1916, at which time the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment was at High Wood taking part in the Battle of the Somme.
BOWLER, LIONEL VICTOR. Private, 030291.
Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
Died Wednesday 3 March 1919. Aged 36.
Born Camberwell, Surrey. Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Emma Mary Bowler (née Collyer) and the late Ernest Park Bowler.
Husband of Edith Stead (formerly Bowler) (née Green) of Ivor House, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Lionel was baptised at the parish church of St. John the Evangelist, East Dulwich, Surrey on Sunday 6 May 1883, at which time the Bowler family resided at 1, Telford Place, Camberwell, Surrey, and Lionel’s father was recorded as being a Hat Manufacturer. Ernest Park Bowler was described as having been a French Silk Hat Manufacturer, following his death on Saturday 5 January 1889 at Great Clacton, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, and was of the same Bowler family line that had devised the original bowler hat in 1849, which was designed and manufactured by the London Hat Makers, Thomas and William Bowler. Thomas Bowler was the grandfather of Lionel. At the time of the 1891 census the Bowler family resided at “Clandel House,” Great Clacton, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. Head of the house was widowed 38 year old Lambeth, London native Emma Mary Bowler. Lionel’s marriage to Miss Edith Green was recorded in the Canterbury, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1904. As Lionel had married in 1904, it seems 'odd' that at the time of a crossing from Canada to the United States of America on Thursday 10 December 1908, Lionel had stated that his mother Emma Mary Bowler of Canterbury, Kent was his next of kin. At the time of his disembarkation at Buffalo, New York, Lionel was employed as a Sailor by the Grand Trunk Pacific Coast Steamship Company, and resided at Goderich, Ontario, Canada. In view of his date of death, Lionel might have been numbered amongst the countless millions of victims of the worldwide Influenza pandemic aka Spanish flu, which lasted from approximately July 1918 to April 1919. Although many of the armed service victims that died of the Influenza were recorded as having succumbed to Pneumonia. The death toll of the pandemic will never be known, but the number is well in excess of those who died due to military actions during the Great War.

BUBB, ERNEST JOHN WILLIAM. Private, G/3047.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Born and resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Whitstable, Kent.
Son of James Bubb and Mary Ann Bubb (née Gisby) of Mill Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 15.
Ernest was baptised at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Sunday 3 May 1896. His parents James Bubb (1837 – 1929) and Mary Ann Bubb (1851 – 1941) married at the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, Chislet, Canterbury, Kent on Christmas Day 1870. At the time of the 1901 census the Bubb family
resided at Canterbury Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 65 year old Chislet, Canterbury, Kent native James Bubb, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Ernest was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Tuesday 1 June 1915, whilst serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was killed in action at ‘The Quarries’ near Hulluch, Pas de Calais, France under heavy fire, during a fresh British attack which was mounted during the ‘Battle of Loos.’ The objective designated to the 37th Brigade, 12th (Eastern) Division to which Ernest's battalion belonged, split between the German positions of ‘Gun Trench’ and ‘The Quarries’ was subjected to a heavy artillery bombardment prior to the infantry battalions pressing home their attacks, following ranging shots being fired by the British gunners, who also had been designated set targets primarily bombarding the ensconced enemy defenders and the massive wire entanglements guarding the positions, before the infantry left the ‘safety’ of their trenches the guns fired from exactly noon for an hour, following which until 1350 hours gas and smoke was used to create a smoke screen of approximately 1,200 yards for an hour, which was increased in density by the use of more smoke ten minutes before zero hour for the infantry assault. At first it appeared that all was going according to plan, as the 7th (Service) Battalion, East Surrey Regiment had managed to reach ‘Gun Trench’ without too much trouble and thankfully with less casualties than had been originally envisaged, but on their left flank the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was subjected to an immense amount of fire power from an enemy trench which was both unseen and unknown prior to the attack getting underway, which had resulted in the trench not being shelled by the artillery before the infantry had attacked, with the catastrophic result that the German wire at that point remaining virtually untouched, after covering about one hundred yards the battalion was brought to a halt, but not before over 400 officers and men in the battalion became casualties within the short space of just a few tragic minutes, of the thirteen officers which had led their men into the fray of the battalions first major engagement of the war, ten lost their lives, as did one hundred and seventy five other ranks, amongst the massive number of wounded some men later died, two being later that same day. As was regrettably the same situation which was applicable too many of those who fell on Wednesday 13 October 1915, following his death Ernest was initially posted as ‘Missing,’ but the Army Council later made the decision that for official purposes, it was to be assumed that Ernest had died on or after 13 October 1915.

CHAMPS, SIDNEY CHARLES. Chief Stoker, 163578. Royal Navy, H.M.S. “Hawke.”
Died Thursday 15 October 1915. Aged 41.
Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent 1 June 1872.
Son of Charles Edwin Champs and Mary Ann Champs (née Wall) of Westbere Butts, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 4, as shown above.
Sidney was baptised at the parish church of All Saints, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent on Friday 18 July 1873. At the time of the 1891 census, Sidney resided at Sturry Court Cottages as a Boarder, and was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Head of the house was 60 year old Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent native John Woodward, who was employed as a Farm Bailiff. Sidney was not at home when the 1901 census was taken, as he was serving as a Royal Navy Leading Stoker on H.M.S. Terpsichore at Simons Bay, South Africa during the Second Boer War. When the 1911 census was conducted he was a Royal Navy Chief Stoker, on H.M.S. Highflyer in the China and East Indies Station. Sidney was serving as a recalled naval reservist at the time of his death. Of all the vessels of any nation that were lost during either of the two world wars, without a doubt the loss of H.M.S. Hawke, has been the easiest to ascertain ‘facts’ by the transcriber for inclusion on this or any other website. One of the sixty survivors of the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke was Royal Naval Reservist, and peace time Postman, Joseph Edward Cooke of Parracombe, Barnstaple, Devon. One of Joseph’s grandsons Kenneth Cooke, is like his late grandfather a former member of the Royal Navy, and has been a long time friend of the transcriber of these brief commemorations. On several occasions in the past Ken has helped in explaining obscure nautical phrases, and also provided other information appertaining to the Royal Navy. About thirty years ago Ken furnished the transcriber with data appertaining to the loss of H.M.S. Hawke, including a copy of a newspaper interview that his grandfather had given after his safe return to Parracombe. The newspaper cutting is incredibly accurate and consistent with that of other data which has been accessed from books and the internet. Commanded by 40 year old Captain Hugh P.E.T. Williams, R.N. who was a recipient of a Royal Humane Society Medal. H.M.S. Hawke was a 7,770 ton armoured cruiser of the Edgar class, which at the time of her loss was operating as part of the 10th Cruiser Squadron assigned to the Northern Patrol. H.M.S. Hawke was laid down on 17 June 1889, and had been launched at Chatham, Kent on 11 March 1891, which meant that she was one of the oldest ships still in service with the Royal Navy at the time of her loss. She had been re-commissioned in February 1913 with a nucleus crew, and had come up to her full complement at the commencement of the Great War. On Thursday 15 October 1914 H.M.S. Hawke was being used as a training ship and had many young naval cadets on board, and was sailing in company with H.M.S. Theseus. When the ships were approximately sixty miles off the coast of Aberdeen, H.M.S. Hawke turned to intercept a neutral Norwegian collier, shortly after doing so both ships were attacked by the faster German submarine U-9, which was commanded by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen, who had been tracking the ships for some time. When he commenced his attack Otto Weddigen fired his first torpedo at H.M.S. Theseus, but fortunately it had missed her. Quickly turning his attention to H.M.S. Hawke, Otto Weddigen then fired a torpedo which struck her amidships near the magazine. The initial detonation which shook the ship violently was followed by a second terrific explosion, which resulted in a large number of the crew of H.M.S. Hawke being killed. From when she was first hit, H.M.S. Hawke sank in less than minutes, and as such it was only possible to
launch one of the ships cutters which was the mail dory, which perchance had been lowered before the torpedo had hit the ship. Captain Hugh Williams, 26 officers and approximately 500 ratings were lost with the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke, but 4 officers and 60 men survived. Although only designed to carry 29 people, the sole ships cutter which had got away, eventually contained 49 sailors who were picked up about five hours later by a Norwegian steamer, all of whom were later transferred to a trawler and safely landed at Aberdeen. In addition to those who survived in the ships cutter, another 15 of the crew clinging to a raft were spotted and picked up by a passing ship, and were all landed at Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Joseph Cooke commented that after he had plunged into the icy waters of a heavy sea, he had swam for about three quarters of a mile before being picked up by the cutter, and whilst swimming he had passed the life raft at which time it had about 150 clinging to it, and that he was later informed that only 15 of their number had survived; Joseph also made mention that shortly after firing the torpedo which sunk H.M.S. Hawke, the German submarine briefly surfaced to see the effects of its discharge, disappearing again beneath the waters immediately. H.M.S. Theseus had been under strict Admiralty orders not to attempt to pick up survivors, as on Tuesday 22 September 1914 there had been the well documented disaster involving three other Royal Navy ships, they being H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S.Aboukir and H.M.S.Hogue, all were sunk by Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen with the U-9. The following is a brief account (verbatim), of the events on Wednesday 14 October 1914, written by a crewman of the U-9, relevant to the sinking of H.M.S. Hawke. “I gazed at the little picture of the upper ocean. The distant three cruisers were some wide space apart, but were converging, and were steering for a point and that point was apparently in the vicinity where we lay. No wonder the Commander thought they must want a torpedo. We imagined they were bent on joining forces and steaming together, but it presently became apparent that they intended to exchange signals, drop a cutter in the water, and deliver mail or orders, and then go their respective ways. We steered at full speed for the point toward which they were heading, our periscope showing only for a few moments at a time. The Cruisers, big armoured fellows, came zigzagging. We picked one, which afterward turned out to be H.M.S. Hawke, and maneuvered for a shot. It was tricky work. She nearly ran us down. We had to dive deeper and let her pass over us; else we would have been rammed. Now we were in a position for a stern shot at an angle, but she turned. It was a fatal turning, for it gave us an opportunity to swing around for a clear bow shot at 400 metres. We dived beyond periscope depth, ran underwater for a short distance, and then came up for a look through our tall, mast-like eye. The Hawke had already disappeared. She sank in eight minutes. Only one boat was in the water. It was the mail dory that had been lowered before the torpedo explosion. At the rudder the boat officer hoisted a distress signal on the boat's staff. That little dory with half a dozen men aboard was all that was left of the proud warship.” Sidney’s brother Arthur Champs; who was born at Sturry on Thursday 25 November 1875, had also served in the Royal Navy prior to the Great War, and had the Official Number 282618.
COURT, REGINALD. Officer's Cook 1st Class, 211074.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Vanguard."
Died Monday 9 July 1917. Aged 33.
Born Canterbury, Kent 15 October 1884.
Son of Mercy Hudson (née Court) (1867 – 1949).
Husband of Minnie Elizabeth Alice Court (née Bellingham) of “Kinross,”
Canterbury Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 25, as shown above.

At the time of the 1901 census, 16 year old Reginald was serving in the Royal
Navy as Boy under training, at H.M.S. Lion, Devonport, Devon. The bulk of the
Court/Hudson family members resided at 27, Cross Street, St. Dunstan Within,
Canterbury, Kent when the census was carried out. Head of the house was
Reginald’s maternal grandmother; 72 year old widowed Eastry, Kent native
Charlotte Court. Reginald married Miss Minnie Elizabeth Alice Bellingham, who
was the daughter of William Horace Bellingham, at the parish church of St.
Nicholas, Sturry, Canterbury. Kent on New Years Eve 1908, at which time he
was employed as a Cook in the Royal Navy having originally enlisted in the
Royal Navy as a Boy entrant. A survivor from the Battle of Jutland in which she
was part of the Forth Battle Squadron; H.M.S. Vanguard, was a 19,560 ton
St.Vincent class Royal Navy battleship being commanded by Lieutenant
Commander Alan C.H. Duke R.N, when she blew up and sank to the north of the
Golta peninsula in Flotta, Scapa Flow at approximately 2320 hours on Monday 9
July 1917, with the loss of 843 lives. She went down as the result of a magazine
explosion in one of the two magazines which served the ‘P’ and ‘Q’ turrets
amidships. Following her loss an Admiralty Court of Enquiry was convened, with
three possible causes tendered, they being: - (1) A spontaneous detonation of
cordite, which had become unstable. (2) The cordite having caught fire from
heating in an adjacent compartment. (3) Sabotage. To their credit Brian Budge
from Kirkwall, and fellow enthusiast, Jonathan Saunders from Gillingham, Kent
have carried out extensive research over a number of years into the loss of
Robert’s ship, and it as the result of their findings that the actual death toll and
following information has been ascertained. The vast majority of those lost with
H.M.S. Vanguard numbering 622, are commemorated on the Chatham Naval
Memorial. Although no formal cause for the cordite explosion was ever found by
the Court of Inquiry, the most likely explanation is that a fire in a coal bunker or
other neighbouring area simply smoldered away undetected long enough to heat
the cordite stored at an adjoining bulkhead to dangerous levels, which eventually
triggered an explosive reaction. Although dwarfed by the losses such as the S.S.
Lancastria off the coast of France in the Second World War, the loss of H.M.S.
Vanguard remains Britain’s worst disaster in Home Waters. The wreck-site of the
ship is now thankfully designated as a controlled site under the Protection of
Military Remains Act. Tragically, Reginald’s 23 year old brother Wallace Hudson
had died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis on Thursday 30 March 1911.
DIVERS, PERCY JOHN GORE. Lance Corporal, 325522. Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars (Worcester Yeomanry). Died Monday 1 October 1917. (Please see below). Born Westbere, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Worcester, Worcestershire. Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Son of Jesse Divers and Matilda Divers (née Garland). Commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial, Israel. Panel 3. Formerly Private, 2898, Worcester Yeomanry (Corps of Hussars). Percy was baptised at the parish church of All Saints, Westbere, Canterbury, Kent on Thursday 18 February 1886. At the time of the 1901 census the Divers family resided at Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Sturry, Kent, native Jesse Divers, who was employed as a Farm Waggoner. The then 15 year old Percy was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Shepherd Boy. Percy was posted overseas to serve in the Egyptian war theatre on Saturday 15 May 1915, at which time he was serving as a Private in the 1/1st Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars (Worcester Yeomanry). Percy’s brother William James Divers, who was also a native of Westbere, was an 11 year old Scholar at the time of the above census. He later served as a Private in the Middlesex Regiment during the Great War. Prior to his army enlistment, William had been employed locally as a Milkman. Having served on the Western Front, he was discharged from the army in 1917 due to being physically unfit, and was awarded a pension. Following his discharge from the army William resided at Chapel Lane, Sturry. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission data shows Percy's date of death as being on 1 October 1916, which unfortunately is incorrect.

ELVEY, GRAYSON HARRY. Driver/Acting Bombadier, 97673. 37th Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery. Died Friday 3 November 1916. Born Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Son of James Elvey and Mary Elvey (née Saffery). Buried Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave Ref: W. 18. At the time of the 1901 census the Elvey family resided at The Forstall, Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Westbere, Canterbury, Kent native James Elvey, who was employed as a Market Gardeners Labourer. Grayson was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Thursday 29 July 1915, at which time he was serving as a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. On the census entry referred to above Grayson was recorded by the census enumerator as being 4 years of age, which if correct, it would mean that he was about 19 years of age when he lost his life during the 'Battle of the Somme.' When Elvey lost his life, the 37th Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery in which he was serving, was part of the 37th Division which was part of the VII Corps in the Third Army.
W. FAGG. No clear trace. Arguably the best, albeit tenuous match for this casualty is the following Kent soldier.

FAGG, WILLIAM JOHN. Gunner, 22700.
230th Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Died Thursday 28 June 1917.
Born Ash, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Chatham, Kent.
Buried Lijsenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: XIV. C. 8A.

William served with the British Expeditionary Force as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery from Sunday 26 December 1915. Purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and should therefore be viewed as such. William’s places of birth, enlistment and residence were all copied from his entry on ‘Soldiers Died in the Great War.’ Whilst it is a very useful research aid whilst attempting to ascertain details about those British other ranks who lost their lives during the Great War, unfortunately like many other valuable data sources, ‘Soldiers Died in the Great War’ does contain thousands of different types of errors. Mention is made of the SDGW errors, as at various times over the years whilst researching the victims of wars from the town of Chatham, Kent, and the village of Chartham, Canterbury, Kent, the transcriber has found people wrongly recorded re the two Kent locations above. It was noted whilst attempting to ascertain details of William’s family, which at the time of the 1901 census there was a 13 year old William Fagg who was a native of Ash, Kent, residing with his parents John and Annie Fagg at Lower Kenfield, Petham, Canterbury, Kent. As the distance between the villages of Petham and Chartham is only approximately 3 miles, it might be the case that William’s place of residence was in fact Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. There was also a perfect match re place of birth and residence for 37 year old Ash, Sandwich, Kent native William, who employed as a Road Engine Driver, and was the head of the house at Hale Cottages, Chatham, Kent. If the latter is the casualty commemorated at Sturry, it would mean that he was about 53 years of age at the time of his death whilst serving as a Gunner on the Western Front.

FARRIER, JOHN HENRY. Private, G/9687.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Saturday 7 October 1916.
Son of Sarah Ann Farrier of High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent, and of the late Thomas Farrier.
Depending on which data sources are accessed, including the census years 1881, 1891, and 1901 show John has having been a native of three different Kent villages, they being Fordwich, Littlebourne, and Wickhambreux, all of which are located near the city of Canterbury, Kent. At the time of the 1901 census, the Farrier family resided at Park Houses, Wickhambreux, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was John’s father; 50 year old Nonnington, Dover, Kent native
Thomas Farrier, who was employed as a Woodreve. The then 24 year old John was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Woodman, and a native of Littlebourne. John enlisted in the army on Saturday 11 December 1915 ‘For the Duration of the War.’ When he enlisted John stated that he was 39 years and 8 months old, employed as a Wood Cutter, and that he resided at Church View, Fordwich, Canterbury, Kent. At the time of enlisting, John named his sister Emily Jane Mount of Church View, Fordwich, as being his next of kin, but a later amendment was made to record his mother Sarah Ann Farrier of High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent as his next of kin. Having been placed on the Army Reserve, John was attested for military service at Canterbury on Saturday 25 March 1916, and initially served in the 9th (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Force, and arrived at the 38 Infantry Base Depot, Etaples, Pas de Calais on Friday 14 July 1916, from where John was posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Thursday 27 July 1916. John remained in the same battalion until he was numbered amongst the 8 officers and 121 other ranks that lost their lives serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion on Saturday 7 October 1916 during the Battle of the ‘Transloy Ridges.’ At the time of his death, John had served on the Western Front for 86 days. The battalion total casualty roll for the day numbers 368, including their Medical Officer, Captain Wilfred Pagen of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme. What follows is the War Diary entry for the day: - “Quiet morning. At 1.30 p.m the enemy opened heavy machine gun fire and shrapnel barrage on the front line. At 1.45 p.m the attack commenced. Very heavy M.G. fire was opened, which held up "C" Company on the right. "A" and "B" companies reached the 1st objective (Rainbow Trench) with fairly heavy casualties but on advancing from 1st to 2nd objectives were completely held up with M.G. fire. Twenty men of "C" Company succeeded in getting into the German trench, with troops from the 61st Brigade, and advanced with them. The 1st objective was held until 12 midnight when the Battalion was relieved by the 6th Queen's.” Captain J.C. Page, was the only officer of the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who was not either killed or wounded on Saturday 7 October 1916, led just forty other ranks from the field of the ‘Battle of the Transloy Ridges, and was later awarded the Military Cross. John Farrier was numbered amongst the 25 members of his battalion who died on Saturday 7 October 1916, that are now at rest at Bancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, virtually all of the remainder of those who fell with them during the same engagement, have been commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Following his death, John’s burial and those of his comrades was supervised by the 5th Divisional Burial Officer, and are amongst the 40 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in October or November 1916, who were originally buried at Cloudy Trench Cemetery, Guencourt on the Somme, whose graves were later removed to Bancourt British Cemetery after the Armistice. Having previously submitted a formal application to be furnished with her late brothers’ war medals, John’s sister; Emily Jane Mount was residing at Walton Cottages, Eastry, Dover, Kent, when she received them in 1921.
GAMBRILL, JOHN. Chief Stoker, 167791.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Hogue."
Died Tuesday 22 September 1914. Aged 42.
Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent 23 March 1873.
Son of Edward Gambrill and Harriet Gambrill of Sturry; Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Edith Lavinia Gambrill (née Hammond) of 36, Greenfield Road, Gillingham, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 4, as shown above.
John baptised at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Sunday 28 April 1872, at which time his father was recorded as being employed as a Waggoner.
At the time of the 1901 census, John was serving as a Royal Navy Leading Stoker on H.M.S. Theseus at Malta. John’s marriage to Miss Edith Lavinia Gambrill (née Hammond was recorded in the Milton, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1904. When the 1911 census was carried out, John was serving as a Royal Navy Chief Stoker, on H.M.S. Scylla. Early in the Great War, the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers which was called 'Cruiser Force C,' in an area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. On Thursday 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 had become the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on Tuesday 22 September 1914, the same submarine under the command of 32 year old Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since Saturday 1 August 1914, sighted H.M.S. Cressy, H.M.S. Aboukir and H.M.S. Hogue all steaming North-North-East at 10 knots without zigzagging, although the patrols were supposed to maintain a speed of 12 to13 knots and zigzag, the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed, and the zigzagging order was widely ignored mainly due to the fact, that there had been no enemy submarines sighted in that area of the North Sea at that stage of the war. Otto Weddigen and his crew later the same day put into practice under wartime conditions what they had perfected in peacetime, and were able to reload torpedoes beneath the waves. Otto Weddigen maneuvered the U-9 to attack the three cruisers, and at approximately 0625 hours fired a single torpedo at H.M.S. Aboukir which stuck her on her port side. H.M.S. Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned although only one boat had survived the attack, as the result of which most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Captain Drummond thought that H.M.S. Aboukir had been mined and signaled the other two cruisers to close and assist with the rescue of his crew, but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late. As H.M.S. Aboukir rolled over and sank only half an hour after being attacked, Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes at H.M.S. Hogue that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of H.M.S. Hogue had stopped his ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of H.M.S. Aboukir, thinking that as he was the other side of H.M.S. Aboukir from the enemy
submarine he would be safe. Unfortunately the U-9 had managed to maneuver around H.M.S.Aboukir and attacked H.M.S.Hogue from a range of about only 300 yards, and it only took H.M.S.Hogue ten minutes to sink as the U-9 headed for H.M.S.Cressy, which was commanded by Captain Johnson. H.M.S.Cressy had also stopped to lower boats but she quickly got underway on sighting a submarine periscope. At about 0720 hours Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed, but the other hit H.M.S.Cressy on her starboard side. The damage to H.M.S.Cressy was not fatal but the U-9 then turned round and fired her last torpedo as a coup de grace, which hit H.M.S.Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch vessels Flora and Titan, and the British trawlers JGC and Corainder, before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. Flora returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain, even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of whom were reservists or cadets. On Thursday 18 March 1915 the German uboat U-29 was rammed and sunk by the 20,730 ton battleship H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, Scotland, and all 32 submariners onboard perished, including Otto Weddigen who had been in command of the uboat since Tuesday 16 February 1915.


At the time of the 1901 census, the Gammon family resided near the Fox & Hounds, at Chislet, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Chislet, Canterbury, Kent native Henry Gammon, who was employed as a General Brickfield Labourer. Although Harry’s Medal Index Card shows that he was serving as a Private in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) when he was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force, unfortunately the date of his posting or which battalion of the regiment has not been entered. The following record the events of the day on which Harry died is as extracted from ‘The History of the 12th (Eastern) Division in the Great War 1914-1918,’ edited by Major-General Sir Arthur B. Scott, K.C.B., D.S.O., who for two and a half years had commanded the division. The book was compiled by the Reverend P. Middleton Brumwell, M.C., C.F., who was a popular Canadian Chaplin who served in the 12th (Eastern) Division, and was later awarded the C.B.E. "Zero was fixed for Monday, April 9th, and sharp at 5.30am, the leading waves of the infantry advanced to the assault under cover of a creeping barrage, stated by all units to have been most effective. Owing to the suddenness of the attack many of the Germans were unable to emerge from their dug-outs, which had very narrow entrances, in time to oppose our advance. Resistance was rapidly overcome and the front system (black line), consisting of four lines of trenches, was occupied to time. The
battalions which carried out this operation were the 6th Queen’s (Rolls) and 7th East Surrey (Baldwin) of 37th, the 11th Middlesex (Wollocombe) and 7th Royal Sussex (Sanson) of 36th Brigade. The counter battery work had practically silenced the German guns, and the leading troops halted on the black line to clear up the captured ground, and allow the supporting battalions to pass through and form up for the second phrase. At 7.30 am the advance was continued by the 6th Buffs (Cope), 6th Royal West Kent (Dawson) of 37th, the 9th Royal Fusiliers (Overton), and the 8th Royal Fusiliers (Elliot-Cooper) of 36th Brigade, the creeping barrage again moving forward at 100 yards every four minutes. This further advance entailed the crossing of Scott’s valley and the capture of Observation ridge, on the western face of which the German second system consisted of a series of entrenched works, heavily wired and strongly defended by machine guns and brave fighters. The capture of this position did not prove such an easy proposition as anticipated, which of two tanks detailed for rendezvous, and the other failed to cross our trenches. As a consequence the infantry had to do without their assistance. Some portions of this system were carried by the assault, but some offered considerable resistance, only to be overcome by outflanking movements, initiated by individuals, or small parties working in co-operation. Houlette and Holt works, however, held out. Much opposition was encountered on the extreme left from the position known as Feuchy Switch. Here the 8th Royal Fusiliers, moving in conjunction with a battalion of the 15th Division on their left, worked to the north and overcame it. This movement resulted in cutting off the retreat of the enemy holding Hart Work, and 200 prisoners were taken there, Second Lieutenant Beames being awarded the Military Cross for his bravery and leadership. During this operation Corporal G. Moakes crawled forward and, reaching a German trench, secured a prisoner and took him back to his commanding officer, who thereby gained valuable information as to the enemy’s disposition, materially assisting in the success. On the capture of Heron, Hamel and Hart Works, the 9th and 8th Royal Fusiliers pushed on, gaining Habarcq and Hem trenches. Here their advance was delayed by machine gun fire from Observation Ridge. The 7th East Surrey, which had gained its objective in the first phrase, as consolidating its position, when Sergeant H. Cator of that battalion found his platoon was suffering severely by machine gun fire coming from Hangest Trench. On his own initiative, and taking another man with him, he advanced across the open, The other man was killed after going about 50 yards, but Sergeant Cator, continuing by himself, picked up a Lewis gun and some drums of ammunition on his way, and succeeded in entering the northern end of the trench. Having discovered the position of the machine gun which was causing the casualties, he opened fire, eventually killing the whole team and the officer in charge, whose papers he afterwards brought in. He continued to hold that end of the attack until Sergeant Jarrott and a bombing squad arrived, and attacking the enemy in flank, drove them out. This action greatly assisted the advance of the Royal West Kent Regiment, which has been temporarily held up, and Sergeant Cator, for his deed of daring, received the Victoria Cross. Owing to the strong resistance met with, the blue line had not been completely captured in the scheduled time. Nevertheless, General Scott
ordered the 35th Brigade to advance according to the plans laid down, considering its appearance on the battlefield would force the Germans, still holding out, to surrender. This brigade, which had been located in the cellars in Arras, proceeded through the tunnel to the caves, and thence, as the enemy’s artillery fire on our trenches was negligible, it debouched and, moving over the top, closed up to the leading troops of the 12th Division. At 12.15pm, the 7th Norfolks on the right with the 5th Royal Berkshire echeloned on the left, followed by the 7th Suffolk and 9th Essex battalions, passed through the 37th and 36th Brigades. The 7th Norfolks (Walter) rapidly overcame the remaining opposition in Haucourt Trench and Houlette Work, and a platoon of "B" Company, 5th Royal Berkshire, outflanking Holt, that stronghold, with a garrison of thirty-five men with a machine gun, surrendered. Thus at 1.5 pm, the blue line was definitely in our possession. The real task of the 35th Brigade, the capture of the brown line, now commenced. There was no intervening system of trenches, but opposition was expected at Maison Rouge, and the enemy's batteries were known to be in the valley that had to be traversed. The plan was to capture Feuchy-Chapel Redoubt and its surroundings, and to pierce the line just west of Orange Hill. On the capture of the blue line the Germans, becoming disorganized, were caught on the run, and the 35th Infantry Brigade had the joy of seeing them retreating in disorder. Those overtaken were only too willing to obey instructions and move down the main road to Arras to report as prisoners. The 7th Norfolks pushed forward to level with the Bois des Boeufs, and Captain Gethin, giving the enemy no time to think, dashed on and, seizing the Maison Rouge, which was the completion of his task, continued until brought to a halt before Feuchy Chapel Redoubt. The 7th Suffolk (Cooper) and 9th Essex (Trevor) now proceeded to the final objective. The Essex gained Feuchy Chapel Redoubt, but the greater portion of this attack was stopped by Church Work, uncut wire, and machine guns. The tanks which had been detailed to assist in the capture of this position were out of action, two having been set on fire by the enemy's guns, and two having stuck in the mud. All attempts to cut the wire by hand and proceed were frustrated, and a line was taken up along the Feuchy Road, the 3rd Division on the right being held up in a similar manner. Meanwhile the 5th Royal Berkshire (Willan) advancing on the left, found itself in front of four German batteries of artillery, firing point blank at a range of about 400 yards. Undeterred, and if anything, enthused by the sight, the troops charged forward, and by means of short rushes and concentrated fire, reached the batteries, and eighteen field guns, four howitzers, and forty prisoners, were captured. On this occasion Lieutenants J. M. Reday and G. P. Debeno, C.S.M. Arthur Blake and Private McAllister distinguished themselves by their leadership and fearless courage. So keen were the men that, with the assistance of a Royal Artillery officer, who accompanied the battalion, they manned the captured guns and opened fire on the retreating enemy. The attack continued towards Orange Hill, but was held up by the uncut wire, and finally the 5th Royal Berkshire took up a line on the Feuchy Road in continuation of the Essex."
L. HILLS. As commemorated on the Sturry civic war memorial appears to be the following village casualty, who has been commemorated devoid of an initial.

HILLS, LEOPOLD WILLIAM. Lance Corporal, 269610.
Hertfordshire Regiment.
Died Tuesday 15 January 1918.
Son of William Hills and Eliza Hills of the Red Lion, High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 153, as shown above.
Formerly Private, 5683, Essex Regiment, and Private, 9599, Hertfordshire Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census, the then 11 year old Leopold was residing with his family at 6, Union Street, Faversham, Kent. Head of the house was 39 year old William Hills who was a Foreman Joiner. At the time of Leopold’s death, his father was the Licensee of the Red Lion Public House, High Street, Sturry. All of the Hills family members recorded on the census entry were natives of Faversham, Kent. On some of data checked, Leopold is shown as having been a member of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, which in view of his date of death that information cannot be correct, as it was not until 1919 that the regiment was renamed The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, in recognition of the service of men from Hertfordshire during the Great War.

HOGBEN, WALTER. Sergeant, L/8413.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Son of Charles Hogben and Jane Hogben (née Wood) of 2, Chislet Park Cottages, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, as shown above.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Hogben family resided at Wingham Court Cottage, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 38 year old Wickham, Kent native Charles Hogben, who was employed as a Farm Waggoner. Walter enlisted in the army as a regular soldier for 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve on Thursday 27 December 1906, at which time he stated that he was 19 years and 4 months old and employed as a Farm Labourer. Walter served in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) from Saturday 4 May 1907, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion on Wednesday 22 April 1908. Prior to the Great War, in addition to his service in the United
Kingdom, Walter had also served in South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore, and India. Whilst serving with his battalion at Hong Kong, Walter was hospitalized for 54 days suffering from Enteric Fever in 1909. He had been appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal on Thursday 4 February 1909, a (paid) Lance Corporal on Thursday 8 September 1910, Corporal on Sunday 1 September 1912 and to a Serjeant on Christmas day 1914. At the commencement of the Great War as was the case with many other regular battalions of the British army at the time, the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in which Walter was serving was stationed in India, and was at Wellington, Madras. At Wellington on Thursday 14 May 1914, the then Corporal Walter Hogben ‘blotted his service record’ when he appeared before his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel, Augustus David Geddes, charged with “When in charge of a picquet, absenting himself from duty.” Fortunately Lieutenant-Colonel Geddes only reprimanded Walter who retained his rank. A genuinely popular officer in the regiment, the then 48 year old Colonel Augustus David Geddes was killed on Wednesday 28 April 1915. He is at rest at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. On Wednesday 12 August 1914, whilst he was serving as a Corporal in “C” Company, Walter’s term of service with the Colours was extended by an additional 2 years, to be completed in India. After being relieved by soldiers of the Territorial Force, all of whom they had originally enlisted would have done so for “For Home Service Only,” Walter’s battalion embarked at Bombay, India on Monday 16 November 1914 onboard the 10,402 ton ship Cunard Line ship SS Ultonia. On Wednesday 23 December the battalion arrived at Plymouth and from there went to Winchester, Hampshire, where it became part of the 85th Brigade, 28th Division. On Sunday 17 January 1915 the battalion left from the port of Southampton, heading for France and arrived at the busy port of Harve. Later the battalion went by train to Hazebrouck, arriving there on Thursday 21 January, and then marched to Rouge-Croix. On Thursday 28 January 1915 the 85th Brigade, 28th Division was inspected by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, and the Commander in Chief. On Tuesday 2 February 1915 the battalion moved to Ouderdom, and on Thursday 4 February moved forward to take up its position in the reserve line at Bedford House, but the stay was brief as the battalion returned back to Ouderdom the following day. Whilst at Ouderdom, their brigade received the news that their comrades of the 83rd Brigade, 28th Division were being attacked by the Germans to the south east of Ypres, and as the result of which, two battalions of the 85th Brigade, 28th Division were quickly dispatched to help the battalions of the 83rd Brigade. Two hours after the initial two battalions had departed from Ouderdom, the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and the 3rd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, both departed for Ypres, and once there, both battalions were held in a state of readiness at the cavalry barracks located there. Doubtless as the result of the fluidity of battles around Ypres at that time, having been told that the two battalions would not be needed, the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) started to march back to Ouderdom at 0430 hours the next day, but was then informed that other units of the 28th Division would be needing help, it being the 85th Brigade which was in trouble to the south of Ypres. What then amounted to counter marches, resulted in the
battalion returning to the cavalry barracks at Ypres again, but on that occasion in the company of the 2nd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. The battalion then took over trenches which were located along the Ypres-Comines Canal on Saturday 6 February where the battalion Headquarters was at Ferme Chapelle. The trenches that the battalion took over at the Ypres-Comines Canal, had previously been occupied by French troops and were in appalling condition, and not what of the same standard as those normally built and maintained by the British. Apart from the discomfort which the battalion personnel had to endure because the trenches were for the most part all knee deep in water, was the state of the trench parapets. As the direct result of waterlogged trenches, there was a marked increase in the members of the battalion suffering from swollen feet, and with frostbite. Although purely supposition, but possibly some of the members of the battalion who lost their lives whilst ensconced in the former French trenches, might not have been killed had the trench parapets, and attendant works been of a much higher standard, as the parapets were recorded as not being able to even stop a bullet. Walter was amongst 11 other ranks in his battalion that died on Monday 8 February 1915, 9 of whom Soldiers Died in the Great War records as having been killed in action, one of which was Walter. Following his death, Walter was officially posted as ‘Missing,’ but the Army Council later made the decision that for official purposes it was to be assumed that he had died on or after 8 February 1915. Correspondence from official bodies to Walter’s parents post his death was addressed to Buckwell Cottages, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

INGLETON, HUBERT JOHN. Lieutenant. 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, attached to the 1/8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. Died Saturday 2 November 1918. Aged 30. Born Sturry, Kent. Resided Laurel House, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Son of the late John Sneller Ingleton and the late Miriam Elizabeth Ingleton (née Foster) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Buried St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Grave Ref: S. V. G. 11. Hubert is commemorated on the headstone of his sisters at St. Nicholas churchyard, Sturry; 8 month old Edna Blanche Ingleton, and 9 year old Lilian Marjory Ingleton. At the time of the 1901 census, the Ingleton family resided at Canterbury Road, Sturry, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Sturry native John Sneller Ingleton, who was a Collector of Rates and Taxes, in addition to a number of other forms of business, which were all Own Account and working from home. Hubert was educated at the Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury, Kent. He had previously resided at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and prior to enlisting in the army he had been employed as a Bank Clerk. In 1922 an official application for him to be furnished with Hubert’s medals was submitted to the War Office by his uncle; Alfred Sneller Ingleton of 3, St. Annes Road, Faversham, Kent, which was doubtless due to the fact that Hubert’s late father John Sneller Ingleton died on Saturday 8 March 1913, and his late mother Miriam Elizabeth Ingleton had died on Tuesday 2 April 1918.
JONES, CHARLES HENRY. Private, G/9590.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Friday 4 August 1916.
Son of the late Charles Jones (1837 – 1896) and the late Caroline Jones (née Champs) (1844 – 1911) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Clara Susan Jones (née Scott) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D.
Charles’ parents both of whom were natives of Sturry, married at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Tuesday 2 January 1866. Charles (junior) was born at Broad Oak, Sturry, on Saturday 4 January 1879, and was baptised at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Sunday 30 March 1879, at which time his father was recorded as being employed as a Labourer. At the time of the 1901 census, the Jones family resided at Farm Yard Cottages, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house 56 widow and Sturry native Caroline Jones. The then 21 year old Charles was recorded as being an Agricultural Labourer by the census enumerator. Charles married Miss Clara Susan Scott of Whitstable, the daughter of James Scott, at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Saturday 5 February 1910. On the evening of Thursday 3 August 1916 Frederick’s battalion prepared to take part in an attack during the fighting on the Pozières Ridge, near the village of Thiepval on the Somme. The battalion’s objective being a trench system of strong points called “Ration Trench”, zero hour was set for 2315 hours, but just over two hours prior to the battalion going on the offensive enemy artillery bombarded their trenches, fortunately some French gunners were quick off the mark and returned fire with gas shells which silenced the German artillery and doubtlessly saved the lives of some of the waiting soldiers in Charles’s battalion. Eventually the attack was launched at the planned time, after successfully attacking, capturing and consolidating their gains following the action, the battalion were relieved and retired to Martinsart Wood where a roll call was taken which revealed that the battalion had lost 4 officers and 114 men in this action. Initially Charles was posted as ‘Missing,’ but later the Army Council ruled that for official purposes it could be presumed that Charles had been killed in action on Friday 4 August 1916. Brief mention should be made of the part played by 20 year old Second Lieutenant Alexander J. Hanmer on the night of 3/4 August, quarter of an hour before the main attack by the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), he led a bombing party out of the trenches to deal with an enemy machine gun, which was expected to play a significant role in hampering the assault by the battalion on Ration Trench when it got under way. ‘Alex’ and his men did deal with the offending machine gun, but in the process the gallant young officer was mortally wounded, he died in hospital at Rouen on Saturday 7 October 1916. For his gallantry displayed on the Pozières Ridge, on the night of 3/4 August 1916, Newington, Sittingbourne, Kent native, Alexander J. Hanmer was posthumously awarded the Military Cross.
KEARNEY, WILLIAM JAMES. Serjeant, 30084.
14th (Service) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment).
Died Tuesday 14 September 1915. Aged 40.
Son of Mrs. Castle (formerly Kearney), of 17, High Street, Sturry, Kent.
Husband of Emily Jane Kersey (formerly Kearney), (née Bateman) of 84, Miles Road, Epsom, Surrey.
Buried Millencourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: F. 68.
William had served in the South African Campaign (Second Boer War). At the
time of the 1911 census, William was recorded as being a 35 year old native of
Rawalpindi, India, and employed as a Housekeeper. He was the head of the
house at 16, Porten Road, West Kensington Park, Hammersmith, London, W.

KEEM, W. As commemorated on the Sturry civic war memorial is possibly the
following casualty, who it would appear has been erroneously remembered by
the use of the wrong surname. Adding to the confusion, William's Medal Index
Card entry records him as being WILLIAM KEENE. All other data is as below:--
KEEN, WILLIAM. Private, 9610.
2nd Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.
Died Tuesday 4 November 1914.
Born Chislet, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Tanga Memorial Cemetery, United Republic of Tanzania, East Africa.
At the time of the 1891 census, the then 4 year old William residing at Blaxland
Cottages, Sturry, with his grandparents 56 year old Robert Keen and 55 year old
Sophia Keen. Herne, Kent, native Robert was the head of the house and
employed as a Woodcutter/Woodman. In addition to his grandparents and
William, Rosa Keen (1875 – 1964), the 17 year old daughter of Robert and
Sophia, who was like William also a native of Chislet, Canterbury, Kent, was
recorded as being at home on the night of the census. When the 1901 census
was carried out William then aged 15, was still residing with his grandparents, but
by then they had moved to live at Barretts Lane, Sturry. Like his grandfather and
several other male members of the extensive Keen family, William was recorded
by he census enumerator as being employed as a Woodcutter. William was
clearly serving as a regular soldier at the time of his death, but unfortunately his
service papers appear to be amongst those which were destroyed in an enemy
air raid during the Second World War. His regimental number is that of a soldier
who had enlisted in The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in early 1909. William
was serving in the 2nd Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in India,
when the 1911 census was conducted, which records him as having been a 25
year old native of Canterbury, Kent. His battalion had served in India since the
year before the census in the Poona/Bangalore area, and at the commencement
of the Great War was at Bangalore. William was posted to serve with the 2nd
Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in East Africa on Friday 16
October 1914, at which time the battalion was part of the 27th Indian Brigade, for
service with the Indian Expeditionary Force "B," which arrived on the coast of
German East Africa on Sunday 1 November 1914. The following morning after the arrival of the force they demanded the surrender of Tanga. The Indian Expeditionary Force attacked the port on the following night, but the German garrison, having been hastily reinforced compelled them to retire. The renewed attack on Tuesday 4 November was both unsuccessful and costly, and the force was re-embarked with 800 casualties. The 2nd Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, the 13th Rajputs, the 61st King George’s Own Pioneers, the 63rd Palamcottah Light Infantry, the 98th Infantry and the 101st Grenadiers sustained most of the casualties; the 2nd and 3rd Kashmir Rifles and the Gwalior (Imperial Service) Infantry also took part in the operations. Tanga was eventually occupied by a Commonwealth force almost without opposition on Friday 7 July 1916, and the bodies of 270 officers and other ranks that had been killed in the earlier attack were reburied in Tanga Memorial Cemetery. It was not possible to identify the bodies of the fallen, and the graves are therefore recorded as those of 270 unidentified British and Indian soldiers. It is known, however, that these unidentified soldiers are among the 64 British and 330 Indian officers and other ranks who died in the attack, and whose graves are not known, and these 394 names are engraved on a screen wall in the cemetery. It is fairly certain that William had actually served all of his time in the army, as a member of the 2nd Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. It has not been possible to ascertain the identity of William’s parents. Rosa Keen who was residing with her parents and William in 1891, married Henry Gisby at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Christmas Day 1894. Sadly Henry died at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Kent on Wednesday 30 March 1904, aged 35. A native of Sturry, at the time of his demise, Henry was recorded as being employed as a General Labourer and was a resident of Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

MARSH, EDWARD CHARLES. Leading Stoker, K/21398(CH).
Royal Navy, H.M.S. “Africa.”
Died Sunday 15 September 1918. Aged 23.
Born Canterbury, Kent 23 December 1894.
Son of Edward J. Marsh and Caroline E. Marsh of 3, Church Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
At the time of the 1901 census the Marsh family resided at Sturry. Head of the house was 27 year old Sturry native Edward J. Marsh, who was employed as a Carpenter and Joiner. The ship on which Edward was serving on at the time of his death was of particular significance to the county of Kent, as when H.M.S. Africa was launched from No.8 Slip, at Chatham Dockyard on Saturday 20 May 1905, she was destined to be the very last battleship to be launched there. With the ever increasing size of naval battleships, they became too large to be launched safely into the river Medway. At the time of Edward’s death, almost 600 of the 779 ships compliment of H.M.S. Africa were struck down by the world wide Influenza pandemic. Freetown, Sierra Leone was major coaling centre for ships of the Royal Navy, and in August 1918, H.M.S. Mantua had docked at the
port to refuel, at which time it was carrying approximately 200 people infected with Influenza, who passed the virulent infection on to workers at the port. When Edward's ship arrived at Freetown, the virus was then passed from the port workers, to the crew of H.M.S. Africa with devastating results. Edward was amongst the 7 members of his ships compliment that died of Influenza on Sunday 15 September 1918. They were numbered amongst the countless millions of victims of the worldwide Influenza pandemic aka Spanish flu, which lasted from approximately July 1918 to April 1919. Although many of the armed service victims that died of the Influenza pandemic were sometimes recorded as having succumbed to Pneumonia. The death toll of the pandemic will never be known, but the number is well in excess of those who died due to military actions during the Great War. At the time of Edward's death, his mother was recorded as being his next of kin and was residing at 2, Grape House, Sturry, Kent.

Son of John Neaves and the late Sarah Rachel Neaves (née Hall) of Station Cottage, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Sturry (St. Nicholas) Churchyard.
Grave Ref: Between West gate and Church tower.

Arthur was baptised at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Sunday 2 December 1900. At the time of the 1901 census, the Neeves family resided at Grinwall House, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 36 year old Doddington, Faversham, Kent native John Neaves, who was employed as a Bricklayer and Arthur, was recorded by the census enumerator as being 6 months of age. Arthur died at the Connaught Hospital, Farnborough, Hampshire, and his death was recorded in the Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1918. At his funeral which was conducted by Reverend Peter Lambert B.A. Arthur was laid to rest with military honours as befitted his rank, at St. Nicholas Churchyard, Sturry on Thursday 14 November 1914, which was attended by many members of the local populace, and army personnel. The battalion in which Arthur served was formerly the 14th (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment which had been formed at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex in August 1915. It was comprised of personnel from the depot companies of the 11th, 12th and 13th Battalions of the regiment as a Reserve Battalion. It moved to Colchester, Essex in October 1915, and then to Aldershot, Hampshire in May 1916. On Friday 1 September 1916 the battalion was absorbed into the Training Reserve Battalions of the 23rd Training Reserve Brigade. At Aldershot it became the 53rd (Young Soldier) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. (Training Reserve). In addition to Arthur’s battalion, the 23rd Training Reserve Brigade was comprised of 12th (Reserve) Battalion, The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 14th (Reserve) Battalion, Essex Regiment, 12th (Reserve) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and the 24th, 27th and 28th (Reserve) Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment.

PEEL, GEORGE. Private, G/5118.
8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Sunday 26 September 1915. Aged 16.
Born and resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of James Peel and Susannah Peel (née Mills) of Sturry Court Farm, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 17.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Peel family resided at Sturry Street, Sturry. Head of the house was 30 year old Chislet, Canterbury, Kent native James Peel, who was employed as a Waggoner at a Flour Mill. The 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in which George was serving at the time of his death, was commanded by Colonel Frederick Charles Romer C.B., C.M.G., when it sailed from Folkestone, Kent and arrived in Boulogne, Pas de Calais, France on Wednesday 1 September 1915 where it then spent two days, after which a move was made to billets at the little village of Maninghem near Etaples, Pas de Calais, to undertake divisional training. Edward’s battalion remained at
Maninghem until Tuesday 21 September 1915, when a march was undertaken by the battalion to assemble at the concentration area in preparation for the ‘Battle of Loos,’ the battalion marched to Bethune arriving early in the morning on Saturday 25 September, at 1100 hours the battalion formed up for Colonel Romer to address the officers and other ranks, short but to the point he said, “I am not going to make a speech to you, but only ask you to remember that you are THE BUFFS.” Following their Colonels ‘speech’ the battalion then made another move nearer to the battle heading for Vermelles to take part in an attack which was planned for later that night. Marching over difficult terrain their division reached positions in the area of Bois Hugo, Chalk Pit Wood, Chalet Wood and Hill 70 Redoubt, which were advanced positions that faced the German’s second line. A proposed attack planned for that night was eventually postponed, and the battalion received fresh orders which stated that they were to take part in an attack the following morning. Just twenty four days after landing in France, and significantly with most of the officers and other ranks in the battalion never having been in action before, at 1030 hours on the following morning, orders were received by the 24th Division, (which included the 8th Battalion) for an attack to begin at 1100 hours, with the battalion detailed to attack the village of Hulluch. Set out below is the 8th Battalion War Diary entry for part of the Sunday 26 September 1915. “At 10.30 a.m. verbal orders arrived to prepare for an attack at 11 o’clock a.m. Almost at once the enemy commenced a heavy bombardment of our trenches. At 11 a.m. an attack across open country commenced, the objective being a German position about a mile away. Artillery formation was adopted on leaving the trenches, but long distance rifle fire caused us to extend our lines almost immediately. The Buffs were supporting the West Kents. The advance was carried forward rapidly and by 11.30 a.m. the leading lines of the Buffs had arrived within 25 yards of the German barbed wire. No gaps could be observed in the wire entanglements. During the advance a heavy fire from machine guns on both flanks was encountered. At 1155 a.m. an order came down the line from the right to withdraw. The enemy’s fire especially from our left flank became heavier and very considerable losses occurred. The Buffs were relieved during the night 26/27th 1915. Rested in a field close by Sailly La Bourse.” Because of the way that war diary entries are written, with their original intention not being for the benefit of amateur historians and the like, the above omits to adequately emphasize that when the battalion attacked at Hulluch, they had to cross a stretch of ‘No Mans Land’ approximately a mile wide, in tandem with the rest of the 72nd Brigade the battalion with mounting casualties eventually managed to reach their designated objective, despite being constantly heavily enfiladed by well placed enemy machine guns, only to then find that the enemy wire was still mainly intact in front of it. The Division to the battalion’s right was subsequently forced to withdraw, which resulted in the right flank being exposed to even more enemy attention primarily in the form of machine gun fire and Germans artillery shellfire, incredibly the 8th Battalion withstood the enemies superior firepower for a full four hours before inevitably being forced to withdraw, during which time more casualties were inflicted on The Buffs, as can be seen from the war diary entry were relieved that night and initially fell back to Noeux
les Mines where they bivouacked in pouring rain. The casualties to the battalion resulting from its first significant engagement of the Great War were truly staggering, as they amounted to at least 24 officers and 610 other ranks killed, wounded or missing, of that number 2 officers and 158 other ranks died on the day of the engagement which was fought by the battalion on Sunday 26 September 1915. Inevitably a significant number later succumbed to their wounds, resultant of the action fought at Hulluch. Amongst the officers the battalion only had one young officer Second Lieutenant J. Vaughan that was not a casualty, subsequently he was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and gallantry when leading the other ranks remnants of the battalion from the battle. Following his death, George was originally officially posted as 'Missing,' but the Army Council later made the decision that for official purposes it could be assumed that he had died on or after 26 September 1915.

POOLEY, BERTIE. Private, 493.
2nd Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Died Saturday 19 December 1914.
Born and resided Shatterling, Wingham, Kent. Enlisted Shorncliffe, Kent.
Son of Isaac Edward Pooley (1847 – 1927) and Harriett Pooley (née Waters) (1851 – 1931).
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 3, as shown above.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Pooley family resided at Sturry Street, Sturry. Head of the house was 54 year old Hoath, Canterbury, Kent native Isaac Edward Pooley, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. The then 15 year old Bertie was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Farm Stock Boy. The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment in which Bertie was serving at the time of his death, returned to England from Malta on Saturday 19 September 1914, having served as part of the Malta garrison since 1912. It moved to Lyndhurst in the New Forest where the battalion joined the 22nd Brigade, 7th Division. Commanded by 46 year old Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Latham Loring, the battalion went to Southampton and embarked on the 12,552 ton SS Cymric on Sunday 4 October 1914, and landed at the Belgian port of Zeebrugge on Tuesday 6 October 1914 for service with the British Expeditionary Force. As was the same situation with the other formations serving British Expeditionary Force during the early stages of the Great War, Bertie’s battalion was forced to make a number of changes of location due to operational requirements, as battles ebbed and flowed, and with mounting casualties. On 23 October 1914 near Zonnebeke, amongst those who fell was Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Latham Loring, he being amongst over 100 casualties suffered by the battalion that day. A succession of moves were made by the battalion, and having relieved the 2nd Battalion, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey Regiment) on Tuesday 15 December 1914, which was also a battalion of the 22nd Brigade, 7th Division. The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment took part in
an unsuccessful attack on the German line near Bas Maisnil which commenced on Friday 18 December 1914. Amongst the fatalities suffered by the battalion on the first day of the engagement was 41 year old Lieutenant-Colonel, Robert Henry Watkin Brewis of Ibstone, Oxfordshire. Formerly Assistant to the Adjutant-General to the British Expeditionary Force, Lieutenant-Colonel Brewis, had been placed in command of the battalion following the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Loring. The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment War Diary entries for 18/19 December 1914 record: “December 18th The Bn was ordered to advance in 3 lines at 4:30 pm to attack and take the Germans Trenches which were in front of Le MAISNIL. The attack was proceeded by a heavy artillery bombardment by our artillery to which the enemy made hardly any reply. Attack was started by "B" Company on the right led by Capt Haddon, advancing in 2 lines: A Co advanced on the left in 2 lines with D Coy in the centre. C Coy formed the third line with entrenching tools. A Machine Gun was on each flank. Immediately the attack opened, the enemy opened a very heavy rifle & machine gun fire. The Battalion advanced under this with steadiness, suffering very heavy casualties. The 2/Queens sent 1 1/2 companies in support & although our dead were found only a few yards from the German trenches, the attack failed in its objective. What remained of the Bn subsequently retired into our trenches. Shortly After daylight the enemy came out & started examining our dead. Parties went out from our lines & buried some of the officers & collected discs from some of the killed. Owing to 2 officers of the Queens & several small parties of the Bn, when engaged in carrying our wounded into the enemy's lines, (the enemy refusing to allow us to remove our wounded) being made prisoners, & also owing to Lt Bover S. Staffords being killed while helping to collect our wounded, the informal armistice terminated Lt Col Brewis was found killed about 40 yards from the enemy's line. Capt. Brownfield, Lts. Monk, Tucker, Campbell & Birt (attached R.E) together with 34 men were found a few yards from a German Machine gun. From evidence available, it is apparent that Capt Brownfield though previously wounded continued to lead the attack on the Gun. December 19th Capt. I.H.G. White took command of the Bn. The following officers reported for duty. 2nd Lt & acting adjutant J. Pennington, Lt. Booker, 2nd Lts. Chavasse, and also Local Capt Swinhoe. 2nd Lt Strevens, acting Q.M, returned to duty with C. Coy. Lt & Q.M. Hyde returned from leave. Bn mustered in the trenches 149 N.C.O. & men. The 2/Queens who had come in as support the previous day remained to occupy 2/3rds of our line. The remainder of 2 R W R had retired, by order after the action, into reserve at Cronballot. Following were casualties as far as could be ascertained: Officers Killed. Lt Col Brewis, Capts. Hodgson, Bromfield, 2 Lts Monk, Tucker, Campbell. Wounded. Capt Mulgrue, Lt Richardson, 2 Lt Standring. Missing. Capt Haddon, Lt Bernard. 2 Lt Pearce: R & F. 57 Killed, 87 wounded, 219 missing. 2 Lt. Standring died of wounds & was buried in Sailly Churchyard. Bn relieved 2/Queens in the Trenches. Following officers were attached for duty. Lt. Blosse R W Fus. 2nd Lts Austin, Poole.”
POUT, PERCY JOHN. Able Seaman, 206679.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. "Gaillardia."
Died Friday 22 March 1918. Aged 34.
Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent on Thursday 7 June 1883.
Son of Lucy Ann Pout (née Barnard) of Broad Oak Stores, Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent, and of the late Frederick Pout.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 28, as shown above.
At the time of 1891 census, the Pout family resided at Sturry (no address entered). Head of the house was 44 year old Nackington, Canterbury, Kent native Frederick Pout, who was employed as a Woodcutter. When Percy’s died, his mother was recorded as being his next of kin and resided at Broad Oak Stores, Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. The same address is shown in Kelly’s Directory 1918 with Percy shown as being a Shopkeeper, it probably being correct prior to his enlistment in the Royal Navy, as he had probably taken over the running of the shop following his late fathers death in 1913 at the age of 65. A native of Nackington, Canterbury, Kent, the death of Frederick Pout was recorded in the Blean, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1913. H.M.S. “Gaillardia” on which Percy was serving at the time of his death, was a 1,290 ton Anchusa class sloop which was launched at Blyth on Saturday 19 May 1917, and had a ships complement of 93. She was sunk by a British mine in the Northern Barrage of the Orkney Islands on Friday 22 March 1918. Sloops of this class were a variant of the ‘Flower’ class, and they were commonly used as ‘Q’ (decoy) ships. At the time of her loss with all of her 93 hands, Percy’s ship was commanded by 36 year old Commander John Sharpey Schafer, R.N., who was the son of Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, F.R.S. Commander Schafer served on H.M.S. King George V. for the greater part of the Great War, and had been present on the ship at the Battle of Jutland. He was serving on board H.M.S. “Gaillardia” having been specially lent for the Royal Navy surveying operations for the North Sea minefield. Percy’s mother; Lucy Ann Pout who was a native of Wychling, Faversham, Kent, never remarried after her husband died in 1913, and she died in 1940 at the age of 90.
PRETTY, WILLIAM CHARLES. Serjeant, 11803. 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died Monday 8 October 1917. Born Sprowston, Norfolk. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Son of Charles Pretty and Elizabeth Mary Pretty (née Bacon). Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: XXVII. F. 1. At the time of the 1901 census, the Pretty family resided at Manor Road, Chatham, Kent. Head of the house was 45 year old Northampton, Northamptonshire native Charles Pretty, who was employed as a Groom and Gardener. Unfortunately Williams’ service papers have not been accessed, but his regimental number is that of a soldier who had enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in late 1904. William was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Monday 26 July 1915, at which time he was serving as a Corporal in the Grenadier Guards. Because he died of wounds, it has not been possible to add here where, when or how William was wounded. The photograph above of Williams’ headstone at Etaples, Pas de Calais, France, was kindly provided for inclusion on this website by Patrick D. Scullion.
STEWART, WILLIAM THOMAS. Bombadier, 317228.  
1/1st (Kent) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.  
Died Tuesday 10 July 1917. Aged 37.  
Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Faversham, Kent.  
Son of David Stewart and Mary Ann Stewart (née Hall) of Hawe Farm Cottage, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
Also commemorated on the Hernehill, Faversham, Kent civic war memorial.  
At the time of the 1901 census, the Stewart family resided at Hawe Farm Cottage, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 48 year old Sturry native David Stewart, who was employed as a Gardener. The 1/1st Kent Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery which was a Territorial Force formation, served in the United Kingdom until being posted to serve on the Western Front on Tuesday 28 December 1915, at which time William was already serving as a Bombadier in the Royal Garrison Artillery, which was probably in the 1/1st (Kent) Heavy Battery.  
S. TURNER. As commemorated on the Hernehill, Faversham, Kent civic war memorial, is probably the following local casualty who was possibly known by all and sundry as Sydney.  
TURNER, JOHN SYDNEY. Private, 2515.  
3/1st West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own). (Please see below).  
Died Tuesday 5 September 1916.  
John’s unit as shown above is how he is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission which is a bit confusing. During the Great War years the West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own), was comprised of the 1/1st, 1/2nd, and 3/1st, and it was only the 1/1st that served abroad, although other members from the 1/2nd, and 3/1st were also transferred to other regiments, most of which were from the latter and had included John. The regiment was formed on the creation of the Territorial Force on Wednesday 1 April 1908, and placed under orders of the South Eastern Mounted Brigade, with its headquarters located at Maidstone, Kent. At the end of 1914 the 3/1st West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own) was formed at Canterbury, Kent, as a Third Line training unit, where it was affiliated to the 3rd Reserve Cavalry regiment in June 1915. During the summer of 1916 it was attached to the Third Line Groups, Home Counties Division at Crowborough, Sussex, and went the short distance to Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent in November 1916. In February 1917 the 3/1st West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own) was disbanded, and its personnel were posted to serve in the 2/1st and some were transferred to 4th (Reserve) Battalion, the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Earlier in the war, several members of the 3/1st West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own) were transferred to serve as infantrymen in the 13th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, which had served as part of the British Expeditionary Force from Thursday 2 September 1915 when it landed at
Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France. Amongst those who were transferred to the 13th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment had been John. When John died of wounds at Rouen, he was still serving in the 13th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Unfortunately and frustratingly, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not been able to ascertain exactly when it was that John had been transferred from the 3/1st West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own) to serve in the 13th (Service) Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Even more frustrating is the fact that the transcriber of these brief commemorations has doubtless walked by John’s grave several times, and had almost certainly photographed his headstone in the past. The photograph appears to be amongst several thousand which were lost as the result of a horrendous computer malfunction several years ago. Although the headstone photograph is not now to hand, it will be emblazoned with the badge of the West Kent Yeomanry (Queen's Own), as opposed to that of the Middlesex Regiment, in much the same way that many members of the Labour Corps who died, that were former members of other regiments and corps have their pre Labour Corps badge on their headstones. Because John died at one of the many medical establishments which were located at Rouen during the Great War, with no supporting documentation to view, it has also not been possible to add here the reason for John’s death.

YOUNGS, ALFRED BENJAMIN. Lance Corporal, S/10801.
“B” Company, 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Tuesday 26 March 1918. Aged 21.
Son of Louisa Neaves (formerly Youngs), (née Gregory) of 53, Marlborough Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of the late Benjamin Youngs.
Buried Hedauville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: A. 1.

Prior to Alfred applying to enlist for military service, Mr. J. Turner who was employed as the Farm Bailiff at Mayton Farm, Broad Oak, Sturry, was asked by the army to provide a reference re Alfred’s character etcetera. Following the glowing reference from Mr. J. Turner who was Alfred’s former employer, he enlisted in the Army Reserve (Special Reservists) for 6 years on Monday 23 March 1914, at which time he stated that he was 18 years old and employed as a Farm Labourer, and that he resided Mayton Cottages, Broad Oak, Sturry. Alfred resided at Mayton Cottages with his mother, step-father Isaac Cash Neaves and his three step-brothers. In response to the standard question enquiring if he had ever been rejected for military service, Alfred replied yes, his rejection having been due to him being under age. Initially Alfred served in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, (East Kent Regiment) at The Citadel, Western Heights, Dover, Kent. When he was first posted to France, Alfred was serving as a Private in the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Tuesday 5 October 1915. Alfred joined his battalion in the field whilst it was recovering from participating in the ‘Battle of Loos.’ He was amongst the three separate drafts of officers and other ranks that arrived at the battalion as replacements for the casualties which were suffered by it during the ‘Battle of Loos.’ Following a period of training and
instructional parades, the battalion and the remainder of the 28th Division to which the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) belonged, was ordered on Tuesday 19 October 1915 to be prepare to move. The first units of the 28th Division left from the French port of Marseilles for Alexandria, Egypt five days later, and all units, apart from the XXXI and CXLVI Brigades, Royal Field Artillery were in Egypt by Monday 22 November. Alfred’s battalion left Marseilles on board the 14,348 ton SS Transylvania on Saturday 23 October 1915, and arrived at Alexander, Egypt on Sunday 31 October 1915, from where the battalion marched to Sidi Bishr Camp. The time spent in Egypt by Alfred’s battalion was of only a short duration, and was devoted mainly to training and marching. The 28th Division was then ordered to Salonika, and completed its disembarkation on Tuesday 4 January 1916. On Saturday 8 July 1916 whilst serving at Salonica, Alfred was admitted as a patient suffering from Malaria, to the 86th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. which was attached to the 28th Division. He was then moved to the 4 Canadian General Hospital on Monday 10 July, and following a succession of moves, Alfred was evacuated from Salonica to Malta on board the 8,271 ton hospital ship H.M.H.S. Dover Castle on Monday 24 July. Following his treatment at Malta, Alfred travelled on the hospital ship H.M.H.S. Megantic back to Alexandria, Egypt. Alfred left Alexandria on board the 9,588 ton British troopship H.M.T.S. Aragon on Tuesday 29 August 1916, and arrived back at Salonica on Sunday 3 September 1916. He rejoined his battalion in the field ten days after his arrival at Salonica. Back at Salonica, poor Alfred again suffered from a number of illnesses which had included Enteric Fever, and further bouts of Malaria. He was evacuated back to England on the hospital ship H.M.H.S. Grantully Castle in December 1916, and from Friday 22 December 1916 to Tuesday 20 February 1917, he was a patient at the 2nd Southern General Hospital at Bristol, Gloucestershire suffering from Dysentery. Alfred was later hospitalized at the Military Hospital, Canterbury, Kent, from Friday 30 March 1917 to Tuesday 24 April 1917. On Wednesday 9 May 1917, Alfred sailed from Folkestone, Kent and arrived at Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais later the same day. The following day Alfred arrived at the 38 Infantry Base Depot at Etaples, Pas de Calais, France, from where he was transferred to serve in the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Friday 25 May 1917. Having participated in the Battle of Pilkem Ridge, the 8th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was rested at the village of Dickebusch near Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, for a few days before going into the line again on Tuesday 7 August 1917. The village of Dickebusch is now called Dikkebus near Ieper. On the same day of going into the line, Alfred suffered a severe gunshot wound to his face and neck, and was removed to the 55th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. and later went the 10th Casualty Clearing Station. The following day he was admitted as a patient at the 11th General Hospital at Camiers, Pas de Calais, France, where he remained for a week before he was transferred to the No. 6 Convalescent Depot, Etaples, on Friday 17 August 1917. He was removed to the No. 5 Convalescent Depot at Cayeux at on Tuesday 21 August. Having convalesced, Alfred arrived back at the 38 Infantry Base Depot at Etaples, Pas de Calais, France, on Thursday 6 September 1917, from where he
was posted back to his battalion which he rejoined in the field on Sunday 16 September 1917. On Thursday 11 October 1917, Alfred was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal, and to a (paid) Lance Corporal from Wednesday 28 November 1917. From Saturday 16 February 1918 to Saturday 2 March 1918, Alfred was granted a period of leave to the United Kingdom. Having returned back to France, Alfred was wounded again and succumbed to his wounding at the 148th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. on Tuesday 26 March 1918. Alfred’s mother was residing at 44, Grange Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, at the time of receiving the news of his death. The commemorative medallion aka Dead Mans Penny, issued to Alfred’s mother, which was in the collection of the former Buffs Regimental Museum at Canterbury, Kent, is now held at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, London. N.B. For anybody carrying out additional work on the Sturry victims of war, or on Alfred, mention should be made of the fact that there were two Great War casualties named Alfred Benjamin Youngs. The other soldier was born at Upwell, Norfolk and was serving in the 7th (Service) Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment when he fell on Sunday 22 April 1917. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, and the Nordelph, Norfolk civic war memorial. Unfortunately, the Alfred from Norfolk is erroneously commemorated by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission as being Alfred Benjamin Young.

The Great War
1914 -1919
Lost Casualties

ANDERSON, JAMES EDWARD. Rifleman, Z/1278.
12th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade.
Died Thursday 20 September 1917. Aged 32.
Husband of Lottie Castaline Anderson (née Love) of “Jesmond Dene,” Jotman’s Lane, South Benfleet, Essex. Formerly of 12, Marquis Road, Camden Town, London, NW1.
Father of Irene Grace Anderson and Dorothy Emily Anderson.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 145.
James married Miss Lottie Castaline Love at the parish church of St. Pauls, St. Pancras, London on Sunday 2 January 1910. He enlisted in the army at Islington for 3 years with the Colours on Wednesday 2 September 1914, at which time he stated that he was 29 years of age, and employed as a Carman. He was then attested to serve in the 5th (Reserve) Battalion, Rifle Brigade. He joined the Rifle Brigade at the regimental depot at Winchester, Hampshire on Friday 4 September 1914. Following his service with the 5th (Reserve) Battalion, James was posted to the 14th (Reserve) Battalion, Rifle Brigade on Saturday 31 October 1914. Following his basic training and duties in the United Kingdom, James was posted to the 8th (Service) Battalion of his regiment for service with
the British Expeditionary Force on Monday 9 August 1915. On Tuesday 14 December 1915, James was invalided back to England and was placed on the roll of the 5th (Reserve) Battalion again on Saturday 19 February 1916. He was posted to serve in the 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade on the Western Front on Thursday 2 March 1916. Only twelve days after being posted to France, James was admitted as a patient to the 17th General Hospital at Rouen, where he remained for a period of five days. When James rejoined his battalion he became a member of “C” Company, in which he was serving when he received a gunshot wound to his neck on Sunday 1 July 1917, which necessitated his evacuation back to England, via the 24th General Hospital at Etaples, Pas de Calais. Following treatment in England, James went back to the Western Front having been posted to the 12th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade, and was serving in that battalion when he was officially recorded as missing in action. The Army Council later decided that for official purposes it was to be assumed that James had died on or after 20 September 1917. On Thursday 20 September 1917 the 12th (Service) Battalion, Rifle Brigade suffered the loss of 45 other ranks, of which 5 were from the county of Kent.

**ARTER, ARCHIBALD ROBERT.** Lance Corporal, 7737.  
4th Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps.  
Died Tuesday 25 May 1915. Aged 27.  
Son of Alfred William Arter and Agnes Arter (née Grant) of Sandpit Cottage, Grove, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 51, and on Great War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mary, Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent.  

At the time of the 1901 census, the Arter family resided at the Cottage, Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 42 year old Leeds, Yorkshire native Alfred William Arter, who was an Own Account Thatcher. The then 14 year old Archibald was recorded by the census enumerator, as being employed as a Work Boy on a Farm. On the 1901 census Harold Arter who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below was 7 years old. The youngest of the Arter brothers, Norman; also served in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) during the Great War, having enlisted in the Territorial Force for 4 years at Wingham, Canterbury, Kent on Tuesday 25 November 1913. At the time of enlisting, Norman stated that he was 17 years old, and employed as a Groom at The Red Lion, Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent. Archibald enlisted in the army and attested to the King's Royal Rifle Corps on Wednesday 5 December 1906. He joined the regiment at the regimental depot, Winchester, Hampshire on Friday 7 December 1906. On Thursday 31 October 1907 he was posted to the 1st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. In 1909 Archibald attended and successfully passed a Mounted Infantry course, and on Wednesday 3 August 1910 he passed his 3rd class Army Education Certificate. On the memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mary at Stodmarsh, Archibald is commemorated as being a Lance Corporal,
serving in the 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, at the time of his death. which would appear to be partially correct as, on Sunday 2 May 1915, Archibald was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal. The reference to Archibald's battalion that he served in at time the time of his death, although not correct, is probably due to the fact that after he was attested to the King's Royal Rifle Corps on Wednesday 5 December 1906, the bulk of his long service was spent as a member of the 2nd Battalion, including time spent in India. Harold Arter follows:-

**ARTER, HAROLD. Serjeant, T/242995.**
1st/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Saturday 24 February 1917.
Son of Alfred Arter and Agnes Arter (née Grant) of Sandpit Cottage, Grove, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
On the Great War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Mary's, Stodmarsh, Archibald is commemorated as serving in the 4th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).

**ASPEY, ALBERT. Private, 34195.**
14th (Service) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, (1st Birmingham).
Son of George Aspey and Mary Aspey.
Husband of Hilda Mary Aspey (née Pysden) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France
Grave Ref: XXIV. AA. 24.
Formerly Private, 989. 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers. At the time of the 1901 census the Aspey family resided at 163, Chessum Street, Bradford, Yorkshire. Head of the house was 45 year old Warrington, Lancashire native George Aspey, who was employed as a Slater. When the 1911 census was conducted, the Aspey family resided at 34, Farfield Street, Bradford, Yorkshire, with George Aspey still as the head of house. Albert was not at the Aspey family home in 1911, as he was serving in the army, stationed at the army camp Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent. At the commencement of the Great War, the 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers in which Albert was serving as a Private, He was posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Corps on Tuesday 15 September 1914. Albert was numbered amongst the 30 other ranks fatalities suffered by the 14th (Service) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, (1st Birmingham) on Sunday 14 April 1918. Serving as part of the 13th Brigade, 5th Division, at the time of Albert's death his battalion had not been back in France for very long having returned from Italy, where it had served for a short time from Thursday 29 November 1917. Albert's wife; Hilda Mary Aspey who was a native of St. Nicholas, Kent, died on Thursday 13 March 1919 aged 28, and was laid to rest at St. Nicholas Churchyard, Sturry on Monday 17 March 1919. At the time of her demise, Hilda's address was 2, Duck Lane, Canterbury, Kent.
AXTEN, JOHN FREDERICK. Private. 9245.
"D" Company, 2nd Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry.
Born St. George's, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Enlisted Lichfield, Staffordshire.
Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Frederick Axten and Mrs. Emily Axten (step-mother), of 38, Boundary Road, Hove, Sussex.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 47, as shown above, and on the Lichfield, Staffordshire civic war memorial.
Johns’ late mother Emma Axten had died in 1899. Unfortunately, Johns’ service records appear to be amongst those which were lost during a German air raid during the Second World War. Due the lost of the documentation it has not been possible to add at here at his brief commemoration, exactly when it was that he had enlisted in the army, but his regimental number is that of a regular soldier that had enlisted in the King’s Shropshire Light Infantry in 1909. At the time of being posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Force on Monday 21 December 1914, John was serving in the 2nd Battalion, King’s Shropshire Light Infantry. The battalion had been stationed at Secunderbad, India at the commencement of the Great War, and having recalled to the United Kingdom, the battalion embarked on the SS Neuralia at Bombay on Tuesday 13 October 1914. Of operational necessity the battalion had only remained in England for a short while, and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert James Bridgford, D.S.O. (later Brigadier-General, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.) the battalion sailed for France from Southampton on board the SS Maidan on Sunday 20 December 1914, and arrived at the French port of Harve the following day. The battalion entrained for Aire-sur-la-Lys, France on Wednesday 23 December, and from Aire-sur-la-Lys, it marched five miles to the north, to rest at billets in Blaringhem which is located to the south-west of the town of Hazebrouck. From Blaringhem the battalion moved to Strazeele, four miles to the east of Hazebrouck on Tuesday 5 January 1915. As was the same situation with all of the other various British units, which were serving as part of the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front during the early phases of the Great War, the 2nd Battalion, King’s Shropshire Light Infantry was no exception, and was forced to make a succession of moves, as the areas of the fighting ebbed and flowed. As part of the 80th Brigade, 27th Division, the battalion arrived at Ypres on Monday 5 April 1915, and begun tours in Polygon Wood sector trenches. John was amongst 4 other ranks deaths suffered by his battalion on the day that he died, unfortunately because John died of wounds and he was not an officer, it has not been possible to find out how, where or when it was John was wounded, which might of course been on the day of his death having later succumbed to his wounds. It was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, that an officer in the battalion was killed, and another mortally wounded, plus several other ranks were wounded during enemy shelling on Friday 9 April 1915, and it is possible that John had been one of those who were wounded during the shelling.
BATES, MADELINE ELSIE. Sister.
Voluntary Aid Detachment, British Red Cross Society.
Died Saturday 22 December 1917. Aged 35.
Born at Waltham Abbey, Essex.
Buried St. Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Hall Lane, Shenfield, Essex.
As can be seen on the photograph of the memorial plaque above, it shows her Christian names inscribed on it in reverse order to that as at her Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details.
Atop the memorial plaque is the badge of the Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and is inscribed as under:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ELSIE MADELINE BATES WHO WAS KILLED WHEN ON LEAVE, AFTER DEVOTED SERVICE TO HER COUNTRY IN FRANCE DECEMBER 1917, THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY HER COMRADES OF THE MILLICENT SUTHERLAND AMBULANCE, CALAIS.

At the time of the 1891 census Madeline was residing with her family at Woodford, Essex. Ten years later Madeline was working as a Drapers Assistant, residing at 11-13, Queen Street, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 27 year old Charles S. Pierson, a Draper, who was probably her employer. Suffering from shell shock, Madeline was on home leave and staying with one of her brothers when she lost her life. As soon as she heard the first explosion of the five bombs dropped by the Germans on Shenfield, Madeline rushed to the verandah to see what was happening, and suffered a bomb splinter to her head from one of the subsequent explosions. It would appear that Madeline was the only death which occurred during or resultant of the raid. Madeline served on the Western Front with the Millicent Sutherland Ambulance, which was the No. 9 British Red Cross Hospital - Duchess of Sunderland Hospital which was financed and run by Millicent the Duchess of Sutherland.
BENTLEY, ERNEST. Corporal, G/751.
6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.
Resided Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.
Son of George William Bentley and Alice Annie Sophia Bentley (née Killick).
Husband of Una Maria Hicks (formerly Bentley), (née Keen) of 21, Stanley Avenue, Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.
Buried Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Bécourt, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: II. D. 33.
As Ernest is not commemorated at Sturry where he was born, or at Queenborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent where he lived, it would seem likely that like thousands of other British victims of wars, he too has no civic form of the rememberance of his death in the service of his King and country. Ernest was born at Sturry on Wednesday 2 May 1888, and baptised at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Sunday 29 July 1888. He enlisted in the army for 3 years with the Colours on Wednesday 2 September 1914, at which time he stated that he was 26 years and 6 months old, employed as a Labourer, and that he was born at Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. He was posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on Saturday 5 September 1914, and remained in the same battalion until his death. Ernest was posted to France on Tuesday 1 June 1915. On Wednesday 28 April 1915, Ernest was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal, and to a (paid) Lance Corporal on Saturday 9 October 1915; on Tuesday 4 July 1916 Ernest was appointed to be an Acting Corporal, which when he was promoted to a substantiated Corporal, it was backdated to that date. On Friday 10 March 1916, Ernest was taken to a Casualty Clearing Station suffering from multi gunshot wounds, from where two days later he was removed to the 6 General Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps, at Rouen, Seine-Maritime, which was located to the south of the racecourse (which is still there), where he received treatment for gunshot wounds to a leg and his left arm. Following a period of convalescence at Rouen, Ernest was sent to the 12 Infantry Base Depot at Etaples, Pas de Calais, from where he was posted to rejoin his battalion in the field on Sunday 30 April 1916. Exactly two months after rejoining his battalion, having sprained his ankle Ernest was at the 37th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, which was attached to the 12th (Eastern) Division, to which the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) belonged. He then received treatment for his injury at the 1 New Zealand Stationary Hospital. Having been wounded the previous day, Ernest succumbed to his wounds at the 37th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, on Sunday 8 October 1916. At the time of being mortally wounded, Ernest's battalion was taking part on an enemy position named Ration Trench near the Somme village of Gueudecourt. Prior to the commencement of the attack which was at 1345 hours, the battalion had suffered heavy casualties during an enemy artillery bombardment. During the attack the leading waves were cut down in No Man's Land. Two days after Ernest's death, his battalion was relieved and went to camp near Bernafay Wood, which is on the Montauban to Guillemont Road.
BILLING, CHARLES GEORGE, Captain.
No.1 Platoon, “A” Company, Deal Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry.
Died Sunday 13 June 1915. Aged 33.
Born Ramnad, Madura District, Madras, India Monday 15 May 1882.
Eldest son of the late Reverend George Billing M.A. and Caroline Flora Billing
(née Gabbett) of 28, Bromley College, Bromley, Kent.
Commemorated at Redoubt Cemetery Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey.
Ref: Special Memorial A. 12.
Charles has been added here in the “Lost Casualty” category in view of the fact
that he is commemorated on page 8 in the book with the long title, ‘Roll of the
sons and daughters of the Anglican Church Clergy throughout the world and of
the Naval and Military Chaplains of the same who gave their lives in the Great
George Billing, Vicar of Sturry, Gallipoli, March 10-15.” The book was painstaking
researched by the Reverend Richard Ussher, who was the Vicar of Westbury,
Brackley, Northamptonshire, who lost two of his own sons in the Great War.
Charles Billing was born at Madras where his father worked as a Missionary from
1871 to 1888. The Reverend George Billing later became the Vicar of Sturry and
Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent. He was educated at Junior King’s Canterbury, Kent, from
May 1892 to July 1896, followed by Dover College, and the Royal Naval College
Greenwich, after which he entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in 1900.
Charles was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Marine Light
Infantry on New Years Day 1901, and two years later Charles was promoted to
Lieutenant on New Years Day 1902 and to the rank of Captain on New Years
Day 1912. He served on the China station in 1903, the West Indies in 1906, the
Mediterranean in 1908, and the Pacific station in 1912. On 27 October 1913,
Charles obtained his Great Britain; Royal Aero Club Aviators’ Certificate at the
Ewen School at Hendon, Middlesex, flying a Caudron Biplane, at which time he
was serving at H.M.S. Pembroke the Royal Marine Barracks, Chatham, Kent. In
1914 Charles was appointed to serve on the 5,600 ton Royal Navy Eclipse class
light cruiser H.M.S. Doris, and was stationed on Ascension Island until April
1915, after which he returned to England. Charles sailed for the Dardanelles from
Plymouth on 10 May 1915. Shortly after joining the Deal Battalion, Royal Marine
Light Infantry in the trenches at Gallipoli Charles was shot in the head by a
Turkish sniper, and was killed instantly. On 16 June 1915, Sergeant William
Jackson Shaw, of No.1 Platoon, “A” Company, Deal Battalion, Royal Marine Light
Infantry pulled no punches when he made the following entry in his diary:

“I forgot to say that we lost Captain Billing the day before yesterday in the trenches, shot through the head. He had only just joined us from England so he did not last long, did he, but really it was his own fault – would not be told or would not do as told to keep his head down. He wanted to see all at once instead of a little bit at a time.” Mention was made above of the entry in the commemoration book by the Reverend Richard Ussher, which when reading it would tend to suggest that at the time of Charles’ death, his father had been the Vicar at Sturry. Various data sources which were checked by the transcriber of these brief commemorations show that from 1914 to 1917 the Vicar of the parish had been the Reverend Norman Lycett Lycett, who was then replaced by the Reverend Peter Lambert B.A.

**DIXON, GEORGE.** Private, 7492.
2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers.
Died Saturday 21 August 1915. Aged 35.
Born Cardiff, Wales. Enlisted Pontypridd, Montgomeryshire, Wales.
Husband of Edith L. Cooper (formerly Dixon) of 10, North View, Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 80 to 84 or 219 and 220.
Unfortunately Georges’ service papers appear to be amongst those which were lost during a German air raid during the Second World War. Due the lost of the documentation it has not been possible to add here at his brief commemoration, exactly when it was that he had enlisted in the army, but his regimental number is that of a regular soldier that had enlisted in the South Wales Borderers in 1902. His Medal Index Card entry shows that he was posted or had served abroad from Thursday 13 August 1914, but to which war theater it was he was posted to has not been entered on the card. In view of Georges’ regimental number, and the Medal Index Card entry, it is fairly certain that at the time of being posted abroad he was serving in the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers. Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel, Henry Edward Burleigh Leach, the battalion as part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, embarked at Southampton on Wednesday 12 August 1914 on board the SS Gloucester Castle, which arrived at the French port of Harve the following day. At the commencement of the Great War, the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers in which George was serving at the time of his death, was stationed at Tientsin, Northern China. On Wednesday 23 September 1914 the battalion landed at Lao Shan Bay for operations in conjunction with Japanese forces against the German garrison at Tsingtao. On Friday 4 December 1914 the battalion embarked at Hong Kong for England and arrived back at Plymouth on Friday 12 January 1915. The battalion was stationed at Rugby, Warwickshire as part of 87th Brigade, 29th Division when it received orders for overseas service. Resulting from the orders, the battalion embarked at the port of Avonmouth for passage to Egypt on Wednesday 17 March 1915, and arrived at Alexandria, Egypt on Monday 29 March 1915. Further passage from Alexandria resulted in the battalion landing at Gallipoli on Sunday 25 April 1915. They landed in broad daylight on open beaches defended by barbed wire.
covered at close range by rifles and machine guns. The battalion landed three Companies at S Beach on the shores of Morto Bay which is an inlet on the South West tip of Cape Helles on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey, at the comparatively light cost of 2 officers and 18 other ranks who were either killed or drowned, and 2 officers and 40 other ranks being wounded. “A” Company was detached to land with the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and 1st King’s Own Scottish Borderers, at Y Beach. This attack though successful was unsupported and eventually resulted in a withdrawal, with the personnel of “A” Company making a counter attack using bayonets to cover the retirement. During the heavy fighting, “A” Company suffered the loss of the Company Commander and 26 other ranks either being killed or missing, in addition to which an officer and 42 other ranks were wounded. The 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers served throughout the rest of the Gallipoli campaign. In the efforts to advance from Cape Helles in May and June it fought with great determination and stubbornness. In August it moved round with the rest of the 29th Division to Suvla Bay, where a new landing by five fresh divisions from England had been brought to a standstill. In a final effort here the 29th Division put in a most gallant though unsuccessful attack on Scimitar Hill, on the day that George lost his life, in which the battalion suffered almost 300 casualties which had included 50 other ranks deaths, including George. The personnel of “C” and “D” Companies led the assault from Battalion Headquarters, and charged over the crest of Scimitar Hill, but were later forced to withdraw. The relevant 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers War Diary entry draws attention to the fact that of those who lost their lives on Saturday 21 August 1915, the majority of them were originally posted as ‘Missing.’ It has not been possible to add here at his brief commemoration, when it was that George was posted to serve in the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers, but it would seem likely that George had returned from the Western Front, possibly having been wounded, and been posted to the 2nd Battalion prior to Wednesday 17 March 1915.

DUNN, FRANK. Private, 535043.
1/15th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Prince of Wales’ Own Civil Service Rifles). Posted to the 2/12th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (The Rangers).
Died Wednesday 26 September 1917. Aged 39.
Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Winchester, Hampshire.
Son of John Dunn and Harriett Dunn (née Buss) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Elizabeth Emily Dunn (née Digby) of 34, Honeybrook Road, Clapham Park, London.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 152.
Frank was born at Sturry, Canterbury, Kent on Thursday 25 July 1878. He was baptised at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry on Sunday 29 September 1878, at which time his father was a Tea Dealer. At the time of the 1911 census, 32 year old Frank was recorded by the census enumerator as being a Bootmaker Dealer, and the head of the house at 6, Arthur Road, Winchester, Hampshire, where he resided with his wife 29 year old wife Elizabeth, who was a native of
Lambeth, London. Also present on the night of the census were his two children; 4 year old Eugenie and 1 year old Sydney who were both born at the house. A visitor Emily Ford, and Franks' sister-in-law, 17 year old Amy Digby who was a native of Balham, London. Frank married Miss Elizabeth Emily Digby at Winchester, Hampshire on Sunday 27 August 1905. He enlisted ‘For the Duration of the War,’ on Thursday 25 November 1915, at which time he stated that he was 37 years and 4 months old, employed as a Boot Shop Manager, and that he resided at 6, Arthur Road, Winchester, Hampshire. Following his enlistment, Frank was placed on the Army Reserve until being mobilized on Thursday 15 February 1917, and posted to serve in the London Regiment. On Sunday 24 June 1917 Frank embarked at Southampton for service with the British Expeditionary Force in France, and arrived at Harve the following day, and then went to an Infantry Base Depot at Harve as a member “E” Company, 1/15th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Prince of Wales’ Own Civil Service Rifles), Franks’ service with the battalion was for only a short duration, as he was posted to the 2/12th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (The Rangers) on Saturday 11 August 1917. Following his death Frank was initially posted as ‘Missing,’ but based on the evidence which was provided by Rifleman, 472967, James Ward of the 2/12th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (The Rangers), the Army Council decided that for official purposes it was to be accepted that Frank had been killed in action on Wednesday 26 September 1917. Following his service in the London Regiment, James Ward later served in the Labour Corps. Following Franks death, his widow moved from Winchester back to her native Balham, initially residing at 1, Reniford Road, and then at 186, Cavendish Road. Later a move was made by the family to reside at 34, Honeybrook Road, Clapham Park, London.

FRANCIS, GEORGE. M.M. Private, G/18434. 11th (Service) Battalion, (Lewisham), Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died Wednesday 20 September 1917. Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Lower Hardes, Canterbury, Kent. Son of Harry Francis and Martha Francis. Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 107, and on the Stelling Minnis, Kent civic war memorial. Formerly Private, 3234, East Kent Mounted Rifles. At the time of the 1911 census, the then 16 year old George was residing at Parsonage Farm Cottages, Nackington, Canterbury, Kent, and was employed as an Under Yardman. Head of the house was 60 year old Preston-next-Wigham, Canterbury, Kent native Mrs. John Shersby. The announcement of the award of the Military Medal to George was published in The London Gazette dated Thursday 18 October 1917. He was numbered amongst the 46 other ranks deaths which were suffered by the 11th (Service) Battalion, (Lewisham), Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on Wednesday 20 September 1917. George is not to be confused with Private, G/18298, George Francis from Thetford, Norfolk who was also serving in the same battalion when he fell on Friday 27 October 1916.
FULLER, WILLIAM ROBERT. Private, 202106.
1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment.
Died Thursday 14 June 1917.
Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Frederick and Susan Fuller (née Ralph).
Buried Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: II. C. 18.
Formerly Private, 6012, North Staffordshire Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census, William was a 14 year old Waggoner’s Mate employed on a farm, and residing with his family at Deerson, Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Woolwich native 43 year old Frederick Fuller was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house, and was employed as a Farm Waggoner. It would seem likely that William had worked with his farther every day on the same farm. William was amongst the 4 other ranks serving in 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment that lost their lives on Thursday 14 June 1917, which at the time the battalion was part of the 137th Brigade, 46th (North Midland) Division. The transcriber of these brief commemorations has made a number of unsuccessful attempts to try and ascertain if the parish church of St. Mildreds, Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent, where William was born, contains a parish tribute to the parish victims of wars, but thus far regrettably to no avail.

GREEN, STANLEY. Private, G/11912.
1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died Saturday 22 July 1916. Aged 22.
Son of Frederick Paul Pierce Green and Elizabeth Green (née Barnes) of 2, Woodlawn Cottages, Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: XV. F. 14.
Commemorated on the Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Green family resided at Rough Common, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 39 year old Herne, Kent native Frederick Paul Pierce Green, who was employed as a Carter. When the 1911 census was conducted, the family was residing at 2, Woodlawn Cottages, Rough Common, Canterbury, Kent. Frederick Paul Pierce Green was still the head of the house, but was recorded as born Southwark, London, and employed as a Wholesale Früiter. The then 17 year old Stanley was employed as a Nurseryman. Stanley was an enthusiastic member of the Rough Common Cricket Club, and had played in the team in the last match of the season on Sunday 2 August 1914, it being only two days prior to the commencement of the Great War. He enlisted in the army ‘For the Duration of the War,’ on Monday 17 January 1916. When he enlisted, Stanley stated that he was 22 years and 154 days old, employed as a Gardener, and that he resided with his parents at 2,
Woodlawn Cottages, Blean, Canterbury, Kent. He was attested to serve in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and completed his basic training in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the regiment. From Saturday 13 May 1916 to Monday 22 May 1916, Stanley was a patient at Fort Pitt Hospital, Chatham, Kent, suffering from German Measles, following which he was granted 5 days home leave. On Wednesday 31 May 1916 he was transferred to the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), and posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force. Following his death at High Wood (as shown below) during the Battle of the Somme, Stanley was initially posted as missing, but on Saturday 28 April 1917 the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes, it was to be assumed to have died on or after 22 July 1916.

Son of William Griffiths and Sarah Griffiths.
Husband of the late Sarah Ann Griffiths (née Pooley).
Commemorated on the 1/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), Aden Plaque which shows Frederick as having died of a disease.
At the time of the 1901 census Frederick was employed as a Stone Mason, and resided at Canterbury Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent as the Head of the house with his wife Susan who was a Sturry native, and their two children; 6 year old Fordwich, Canterbury, Kent native Alfred and 5 year old Bournemouth, Hampshire native Dolly. He was posted to serve in the Asiatic war theatre on Thursday 5 August 1915.
HADLUM, DAVID FRANCIS. Private, L/7750.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Wednesday 3 February 1915. Aged 29.
Son of William Hadlum and Frances Jane Hadlum (née Cox).
Husband of Evelyn Hadlum of "Rivelin," Rutland Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire.
Buried Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: IX. B. 20.
The L prefix on David’s regimental number is indicative of him having been a regular soldier, and it is probably fair to assume that he had been serving in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) which was stationed at Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, at the commencement of the Great War hostilities between Britain and Germany. The battalion left Ireland on Wednesday 12 August 1914, and following a not uneventful journey the battalion arrived at Cambridge, Cambridgeshire on Wednesday 19 August, where the battalion was billeted at Christ’s College. A move was made to Southampton, from where on Monday 7 September 1914 the battalion embarked on the SS Minneapolis, prior to sailing for France the following day, and arrived at the port of Harve on 9 September. David’s Medal Index Card records that he was posted to France in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Monday 7 September 1914. Because David died of wounds and was not an officer, it has not been possible too add details at this brief commemoration where, when or how David received the wounding from which he died. Whilst researching, the transcriber noted that the post Sturry, the Hadlum family had resided at Loose, Maidstone, Kent, but regrettably David is not commemorated on the Loose, civic war memorial. He has also not been commemorated on the Skegness, Lincolnshire civic war memorial where his wife later resided, and possibly he has no civic form of his remembrance anywhere.

HALLIDAY, WALTER. Lance Corporal, G/6363.
"B" Company, 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Thursday 18 May 1916. Aged 32. (Please see below).
Born Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of the late Charles and Elizabeth Halliday.
Husband of Bessie E. Sloggett (formerly Halliday), of 7, Leopold Road, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: VI. D. 39.
Walter’s place of birth as shown above was as at his ‘Soldiers Died in the Great War’ entry, but his Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details shows him to have been a native of Sturry, Kent. Checking the 1901 census showed 14 year old Walter employed as a Mill Boy, and as having been born at Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. At the time of the census, the Halliday family resided at Canterbury Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. As Walter’s birth was registered in the last quarter of 1887, it would also appear that his age as...
shown on his CWGC commemoration is also erroneous. Mention should be made of the fact that the CWGC error is not the fault of the Commission, or that of the former Imperial War Graves Commission. When the additional information forms were returned to the IWGC after the Great War, the details furnished by families were simply added verbatim, which is the primary reason for the not insignificant numbers which unfortunately exist on the commemoration details of casualties. Over the 50 plus years of carrying out research on the victims of wars and transcribing war memorials etcetera, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has noticed that the errors as touched on above, appear to be particularly prevalent with large families, and with those employed in agriculture who moved about a lot, and it might simply be the case that when supply the requested information to the IWGC, the parent or parents of casualties quite literally where the casualty had actually been born.

HAWKINS, BENJAMIN THOMAS. Private, S/10274. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Monday 3 May 1915. Born Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12. Regretably, Benjamin in addition too not having been commemorated on the Sturry civic war memorial, he has also not been commemorated on either the Wingham, Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial, or on the Great War memorial plaque which is located in the parish church of St. Mary, Wingham, Kent, and as such it might be the case that Benjamin has no civic form of his remembrance. Benjamin was posted to France in the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), for service with British Expeditionary Force on Tuesday 9 February 1915. On Saturday 1 May 1915 Benjamin’s battalion had a fresh draft of other ranks join it in Belgium direct from England, who due primarily to time constraints were not initially allotted to the different companies within the battalion, and it was decided to locate the new men in a new support trench in front of a wood. All of the positions occupied by the battalion were subjected to an extraordinary amount of enemy shellfire the day after the arrival of the fresh draft, with numerous casualties being inflicted on the battalion. Several commentators have made very similar comments when referring to the days’ events, along the lines of the British artillery guns being virtually powerless to offer support and return shellfire onto the German artillery gun emplacements. Many of the same commentators, and also probably of more important significance and relevance, is some of the correspondence which was written by some of the survivors who had served in the battalion during late April and early May 1915, with the writers of same commenting about not getting artillery support due to the lack of the gunners ammunition. Many of the gunners also became casualties, as the direct result of being fired upon by enemy field guns. During the hours of darkness on the night of 2/3 May the intensity of the German shelling subsided, but at first light on the morning of Monday 3 May 1915, the artillery bombardment of the battalion positions was once again renewed. Throughout the whole of the day on
Monday 3 May the enemy guns continued to fire at will, and as on the previous day, the doubtless frustrated British gunners were unable to offer all but a token reply. During the morning 38 year old Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon who was commanding at that time, reported many casualties, and that the trench parapets had been blown in and that the situation was critical. Later it became even worse, with the bombardment being so rapid as to being likened to the sound of heavy machine-gun fire. One of the trenches held by the battalion called D.5, was rushed by enemy infantry, but it would seem that none of the members of "C" Company who had been ensconced in the trench, were at that time in a position to offer any form of resistance during the German assault. Captain L. Howard Smith, Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, and approximately eighty other ranks had formerly occupied D.5, but had all been killed or wounded, and all were later reported as missing. At the time of Benjamin's death, there were no communication trenches in common use, and as such the parties of soldiers of varying sizes, were to all intents and purposes isolated and cut-off from help and/or support once in place in the allocated trenches, or other forms of defensive cover such as shell holes, the reason being that as the engagements raged, it would have been far to hazardous to cross above ground between the trenches. Probably due to the fact that D.5 fell to the enemy, who had also possessed woods located behind that particular trench complex, it appears to have had the knock on effect of another trench (D.4), also being captured by enemy infantry. Following the capture of D.5, by the enemy soldiers, D.4 was then subjected to fire by the Germans, who had taken over the occupancy of the former 2nd Battalion trench. Compounding the perilous position faced by the members of the battalion in D.4 was the enemy firing coming from the nearby wood in the enemies' hands. Captain Houblon, and a Lieutenant Sharp along with other what remained of "D" Company, and a few stragglers made gallant efforts to remain in trench D.4, but resulting from the firing coming in from both sides, their position became virtually un-defendable, necessitating a withdrawal along the trench line, a maneuver that was conducted with commendable steady order and control. To assist with the final withdrawal from D.4, at great risk to themselves, covering fire was provided by Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, and by Private, 7852, Frederick Campbell who were both members of "C" Company, miraculously both of whom managed to extricate themselves from the trench whilst under heavy fire. Although he was wounded during the fierce engagement, Lieutenant Sharp and the survivors of Captain Houblon's party eventually managed to reach trench D.3, and later reached D.1, which was held by Captain Barnard with "A" Company. A small party of members of the battalion led by Second Lieutenant, Ellis Brockman, Backhouse, and a company of soldiers of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), led by Captain R. Ford, did however manage to tenaciously hold on to a new support trench, during which time they were subjected to horrendous enfilade fire from enemy heavy howitzers and other artillery pieces. In much the same way that the earlier withdrawals had been steadily conducted, the battalion later moved back to bivouacs located in a wood near Poperinghe, taking with it all the wounded that could be moved, spare
ammunition, tools, and equipment being taken with the battalion. Company Sergeant Major, L/6605, Ernest George Port, was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and received his commission. The relevant London Gazette entry for his D.C.M., dated Wednesday 30 June 1915, reads:- “For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 3rd May 1915, in holding on to a trench to the last, covering the retirement of his men to another position. The enemy, of whom he killed many, were only yards away.” Frederick Campbell who also made the heroic rearguard stand with Ernest G. Port D.C.M., apparently was not even Mentioned in Despatches, or “B” for Record, he later transferred to the Royal Engineers, and served as a Serjeant in a Railway Company. Lieutenant Gerald Randall Howe, was later promoted to Captain and became an Adjutant, Captain L. Howard Smith, was later promoted to Major, and Captain Henry Lindsay Archer Houblon, who was a son of Colonel George Archer Houblon, was also promoted to the rank of Major, and was attached to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Major Henry Houblon later inherited the Hallingbury Place Estate, Essex which had been used extensively by the British army during the Great War, and offered it on lease, but possibly resultant of the prevailing economic climate which prevailed at that time no one came forward, and eventually it was put up for sale. In October 1923, the great house was demolished, and the materials and contents put up for sale and the estate broken up. Due primarily to the fact that Ernest had not been an officer, it has not been possible thus far to be able to ascertain how, when, or where he actually died, during the somewhat one-sided engagement that was fought by the battalion on Monday 3 May 1915, which is known to have cost the lives of at least 144 other ranks. It is particularly regrettable that the names etcetera, of many of the men who had joined the battalion as members of the drafts, that had been posted to the battalion on Friday 30 April and Saturday 1 May 1915, were initially not known. Following his death, Benjamin was initially posted as ‘Missing,’ but later the Army Council made the decision the for official purposes it was to be assumed that Benjamin had died on or after 3 May 1915.

HOLNESS, FRANK EDWARD. Serjeant, L/8887.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Son of William J. Holness and Fanny Sophia Holness (née Addley) of 11, Gordon Cottages, Sea Street, Herne Bay, Kent.
Buried Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: IX. C. 70.
Regretably it was noticed that Frank is also not commemorated on the Herne Bay, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1891 census, the Holness family resided at Marshside, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 34 year old Chislet, Canterbury, Kent native Fanny Sophia Holness, who was employed as a Charlady. Frank was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 4 month old native of Sturry.
Frank was posted to France as a Serjeant, in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), for service with British Expeditionary Force on Sunday 27 December 1914. Frank died of wounds, and his death was the sole other rank casualty suffered by the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Thursday 4 March 1915.

**HOMERSHAM, ARTHUR DOUGLAS.** Private, G/18799.  
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).  
Son of Arthur Henry Homersham and Rosa Matilda Homersham (née Pritchard) of Grove Villa, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
Buried Philosophe Cemetery, Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France.  
Grave Ref: I. S. 15.  
At the time of the 1901 census the Homersham family resided at Addiscombe Villa, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 26 year old Fordwich, Kent native Arthur Homersham (senior), who was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Hurdle and Lathe Maker. The death of Arthur (junior) was amongst the 4 other ranks fatalities which were suffered by his battalion on Wednesday 27 June 1917.

**IVORY, HARRY JOHN.** Serjeant, 10690.  
4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, The King’s (Liverpool Regiment).  
Born Newington, Sittingbourne, Kent. (please see below). Enlisted Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. Resided Sittingbourne, Kent.  
Son of Minnie Rose Ivory of Tile Lodge Farm, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
Husband of Grace Ivory (née Orchard) of 30, Harbour Street, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Harry place of birth as shown above was accessed from his ‘Soldiers Died in the Great War’ entry, which as can be seen below does not match the only census entry found for him. At the time of the 1901 census the Ivory family resided at The Street, Lower Halstow, Kent. Head of the house was Harry’s father; 37 year old Milton, Kent native William J. Ivory, who was employed as a Brickfield Foreman. Harry, then 6 years of age was recorded by the census enumerator as being a native of Rainham, Kent. Unfortunately, Harry’s service papers appear to be amongst those which were destroyed during a bombing raid during the Second World War, but his regimental number is that of a man who had enlisted as a regular soldier in The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) in 1909. Harry was the sole other rank death suffered by the 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) on Thursday 6 July 1916. Harry’s marriage to Grace Orchard was recorded in the Farnham, Surrey, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1913. The marriage entry might be indicative of Harry having been serving at the garrison town of Aldershot, Hampshire, at the time, which is where the 1st Battalion, The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) was still stationed at.
Talavera Barracks, Aldershot, as part of the 6th Brigade, 2nd Division at the commencement of the Great War.

KENT, GEORGE ETHELBERT. Serjeant, 295359.
2/4th Battalion, (City of London Battalion), London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).
Died Thursday 6 December 1917. Aged 34.
Husband of Lilian Kent (née Swift) of 10, Cotton Street, Range Bank, Halifax, Yorkshire.
Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: VIII. I. 127.
Commemorated on the Richmond, Surrey civic war memorial.
Formerly Serjeant, 2574, City of London Yeomanry, and Serjeant, 7032, 23rd Battalion, (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment, also Serjeant, 703273, 23rd Battalion, (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment. On some data sources checked, George is shown as being a native of Sturry, and on others as having been born in Canterbury, Kent. Included amongst the latter is the relevant 1891 census entry for George, at which time the Kent family was residing at Yarmouth Road, Thorpe-next-Norwich, Norfolk. Head of the house was Georges’ mother; 28 year old Sturry, Kent native Mrs. Louisa M.M. Kent. On the census entry, 8 year old George is recorded as having been born at Canterbury, Kent, as was his 10 year old sister Emma Kent. Louisa M.M. Kent (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator as a 6 year old of Shalmsford Street, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. The youngest child recorded was 6 months old Annie Ethel Kent, who was born at Thorpe-next-Norwich, Norfolk. Georges’ marriage to Lilian Swift was recorded in the Richmond, Surrey, Registration District during the third quarter of 1909. Due to the fact that George had not been an officer, it has not been possible thus far to be able to ascertain how, when, or where he received the wound or wounds from which he died.

MOUBRAY, ARTHUR RUSSELL ST. JOHN. M.C. Major.
200th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Died Tuesday 2 July 1918. Aged 27.
Born Lake County, Florida, U.S.A. Sunday 15 March 1891.
Son of the late Arthur Rolland Moubray, R.N.R., and Louisa Anna Moubray (née Roussell) of Vernon Cottage, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Arthur was educated at Elizabeth College, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. At the time of the deaths of both her sons, Mrs. Louisa Anna Moubray’s address for correspondence was at Box 655, Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. At the time of submitting an official application to be furnished with both of her late sons medals in October 1919, she was residing at “Coniston,” Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent. But with all correspondence appertaining to same to be addressed H.K. Moubray, Esq of St. Pierre Manor Road, Worthing, Sussex. Louisa Anna Moubray died at St. Thomas’s Hospital, London on Thursday 26 November 1925, at which time her home address was still at Vernon Cottage,
Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Arthur was a brother of Second Lieutenant, Cyril Moubray M.C. who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below.

**MOUBRAY, CYRIL LLOYD. M.C.**
Born Ocala, Lake County, Florida, U.S.A. Saturday 19 May 1894.
Son of the late Arthur Rolland Moubray, R.N.R., and Louisa Anna Moubray (née Roussell) of Vernon Cottage, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on page 591 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of the 1901 census the Moubray family resided at Les Pagiots, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, where Louisa Moubray a 45 year old widow and native of India, was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house and a Greenhouse Keeper. Cyril was educated at Sandwich School, Kent, and Elizabeth College, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Prior to enlisting in the Canadian Overseas-Expeditionary Force he was employed as a Civil Engineer. He enlisted in the Canadian Overseas-Expeditionary Force at Vernon, British Columbia on Monday 28 June 1915, at which time he stated that he had was a serving member of the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Regiment. Following his enlistment, Cyril initially served as a 628009, Private, 47th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and is recorded on the 47th Battalion Nominal Roll. The details of the award of the Military Cross to Cyril were published in a Supplement to the London Gazette which was dated Saturday 1 February 1919, as follows:- “For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at the Canal du Nord on 27th September, 1918. After making a reconnaissance under great difficulties he brought up stores under heavy shell fire and constructed a crossing, the successful completion of the work being largely due to the determination he showed.”

**PALMER, THOMAS JOHN.** Private, G/6149. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Tuesday 21 September 1915.

Thomas was born at Canterbury, Kent on Saturday 24 November 1883. At the time of the 1891 census, the Palmer family resided at 62, St. Peters Lane, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 35 year old Canterbury, Kent native John Palmer, who was employed as a Carpenter. When the 1901 census was conducted, Thomas was serving as a Boy in the Royal Navy, on the 8-gun training brig H.M.S. Pilot, at Plymouth, Devon, and had the Official Number 209284. Thomas was numbered amongst the 3 other ranks which were serving in his battalion who fell on Tuesday 21 September 1915.
PEEL, ALFRED. Bombadier, 33461.
"D" Battery, 50th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died Monday 4 November 1918. Aged 34.
Born Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Leeds, Yorkshire.
Son on George Peel and Marian Peel of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Mary Elizabeth Budd (formerly Peel) (née Collinson) of 112, Parsons Mead, West Croydon, Surrey.
Buried Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: VII. C. 13.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Peel family resided at Fordwich, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 65 year old Wingham, Canterbury, Kent native George Peel, who was an Own Account Market Gardener, and Dairyman. The then 17 year old Alfred and his 23 year old brother Henry, were both recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as Milkmen and Gardeners, which was probably in their fathers employ. Alfred married Miss Mary Elizabeth Collinson at Leeds, Yorkshire on Tuesday 27 December 1910. He enlisted in the army for 3 years with the Colours on Tuesday 1 September 1914, at which time he stated that he was 29 years and 270 days old, and employed as a Tram Driver. Two days after enlisting and being attested, Alfred joined the Royal Field Artillery at the No.1 Depot, Royal Field Artillery, Newcastle-on-Tyne. He was posted to serve as a Gunner in the 171st (Howitzer) Battery on Friday 25 September 1914. He later served in "C" Battery, 53rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, in which he was serving when he was appointed a (paid) Acting Bombadier on Tuesday 30 March 1915. Alfred was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Corps on Monday 10 May 1915 as an Acting Bombadier. He was promoted to Bombadier on Tuesday 7 December 1915 whilst he was serving on the Western Front in the 50th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Alfred’s widow had a ‘battle’ for a long time with the Ministry of Pensions, whilst attempting to secure a pension for herself and Alfred’s six children.

PIESLEY, CHARLES EDWARD. Private, G/2958.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Born Oxfordshire. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided Rusthall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Son of George Piesley of High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-l'Abbe, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: I. D. 19.
Commemorated on the Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent civic war memorial.
Charles’ birth was recorded in the Abingdon, Oxfordshire, Registration District during the third quarter of 1895. Unfortunately no irrefutable 1901 census entry was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations for Charles and the Piesley (or Peesley/Peasley etc) family on the 1901 census. He was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Corps on Thursday 1 June 1915, at which time he was serving as a Private in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). As the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) rested in a reserve
position in a field near the Somme village of Millencourt on Saturday 1 July 1916, which was the first day of the ‘Battle of the Somme 1916,’ there was doubtless a mixture of excitement, apprehension and initial relief when news came through from the front that all was going well, and that “all objectives had been gained.” Later came the news that the assault on the village of Ovillers had failed. Resulting from the first day’s failure to capture Ovillers, the battalion moved at night to occupy trenches facing the village which was once again heavily bombarded by the artillery. Early on the morning of Monday 3 July the battalion were ready to attack the enemy troops holding Ovillers, at about 0330 hours “A” Company moved forward in platoons, initially with few losses until it reached the German barbed wire entanglements, but later waves of “A” Company and those of “C” Company had a high casualty rate. Those soldiers who did manage to actually get into the enemy trenches bombed the dugouts, and it was noted that the men who were being led with Second Lieutenant, Thomas Charles Farmer carried out the bombing with noted accuracy and skill, which observers likened to a field-day work (training). Thomas Charles Farmer had formerly served as a Private in the 13th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Kensington), and had been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), having served on the Western Front from Tuesday 3 November 1914. Due to the high casualty rate being inflicted on the men carrying more hand grenades to the bombing parties, resulted in the supply of them running out, which in turn led to Second Lieutenant, Thomas Farmer carrying out a fighting withdrawal from the German trenches at Ovillers. Monday 3 July 1916 cost Charles’ battalion at least 274 casualties in dead, wounded and missing, of which 70 were the deaths of other ranks, one of whom was Charles who died of wounds. Thomas Charles Farmer was subsequently awarded the Military Cross, he resigned his commission on Friday 26 July 1918, and after being severely wounded he was awarded a Silver War Badge. Having survived the carnage of the Great War, Thomas returned home to reside at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

POWELL, BERTIE MATTHEW. Private, 55632.
1/6th (Glamorgan) Battalion, (Territorial Force) Welsh Regiment.
Died Thursday 18 April 1918. Aged 22.
Born and enlisted Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Albert Powell (1865 – 1945) and Mary Ann Powell (née Hopper) (1867 – 1925) of 2, Spring Lane Cottages, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Rose Styles (formerly Powell), (née Goldsmith) of 1, Mayton Cottages, Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 77 or 78, and on the Canterbury, Kent, civic war memorial.
Formerly Private, 32285, Norfolk Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census the Powell family resided at 8, Wells Cottages, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent.
Bertie’s brother also lost his life during the Great War, who was the following :-

POWELL, FREDERICK RICHARD. Private G/553.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died Tuesday 14 March 1916. Aged 22.
Born Northgate, Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Albert Powell and Mary Ann Powell (née Hopper) of 2, Spring Lane Cottages, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent. Buried Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: V. B. 31.
Frederick was posted to France with the British Expeditionary Corps on Tuesday 1 June 1915, at which time he was serving as a Private in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was wounded on Thursday 2 December 1915, and succumbed to his wounds at Bethune Pas de Calais, France on Tuesday 14 March 1916.

**SIMS, WALTER JAMES.** Private, 103446. 4th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Died Thursday 28 March 1918.
Son of Walter Sims and Louisa Sims (née Holt).
Husband of Alice Daisey Bullock (formerly Sims) (née Stockbridge).
Formerly Private, S1/125864, Royal Army Service Corps. At the time of the 1901 census, the Sims family resided at Inner Cottage, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 53 year old Stowting, Ashford, Kent native Walter Sims (senior), who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Aged 22, Walter married Canterbury, Kent native Alice Daisey Stockbridge, the daughter of Stephen Stockbridge and Geraldine Stockbridge, at Canterbury on Saturday 15 November 1913. Alice emigrated to Canada, and sailed from London on the 10,417 ton Canadian Pacific Line ship Scotian, which arrived at Quebec on Sunday 31 October 1920. Alice married Bristol, Gloucestershire native and former Canadian soldier William Andrew Bullock, at Toronto on Friday 2 September 1921. On Friday 20 June 1924, Alice, William and their first child Andrew, arrived back in England at Southampton, as passengers on board the 15,183 ton Canadian Pacific Line ship Melita. Born on Sunday 31 May 1891, Alice Daisey Bullock died at Canterbury, Kent on Tuesday 28 May 1963.

Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Addenda Panel, and on Great War memorial plaque located in the Victoria Hospital, Deal, Kent. The hospital was built in 1924, as a permanent memorial to those from the town and surrounding area, who lost their lives during the years of the Great War.
Henry was posted to France on Tuesday 6 July 1915, with The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). On Friday 1 June 1917 the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in which Henry was serving at the time of his death, moved into frontline trenches at Hulluch near Loos-en-Gohelle, Pas de Calais, France, which had been the same ground which was fought over during the ‘Battle of Loos’ in September and October 1915, and remained in the trenches for eight days, during the course of which it suffered 28 casualties in the form of fatalities and woundings, some of the later ultimately proving fatal. On Monday 11 June the
battalion went into divisional reserve at the coalmining town of Fouquières-lès-Lens, but the personnel of “C” and “D” Companies went off to the large farming village of Allouagne to train for a raid which had been planned. On Wednesday 20 June, when the battalion returned to the trenches, it was only the personnel of “A” and “B” Companies who initially occupied the trenches, prior to being joined by the officers and other ranks of “C” and “D” Companies three days later, on their return from Allouagne. On Sunday 24 June a large raiding party which was comprised of “C” and “D” Company personnel, were led by Captain B. Jacobs M.C. made a raid on German trenches at Hulluch, which commenced at 2100 hours. The reasons for the raid was to obtain identification, capture prisoners and to inflict casualties on the enemy, and also during the process destroy German dug-outs and emplacements, in addition to drawing enemy fire from 6th Divisional front. The soldiers of the 8th (Service) Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, which was located to the right of the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), cooperated by putting up a smoke barrage, and also exposing dummy figures representing troops leaving its trenches, which drew some of the enemy fire away from Henry’s battalion during the attack by “C” and “D” Companies which attacked in three waves. The first wave was led by Lieutenant Frederick A.J.R. Marshall, the second by Lieutenant Vincent Newton Moss, and the third by 26 year old Second Lieutenant, Percy Charles Buss from Smarden, Ashford, Kent, which was accompanied by Lewis Gunners. The raid at Hulluch lasted for three and a half hours, and resulted in the deaths of Second Lieutenant Buss and 27 other ranks. In addition to those who were recorded as having fallen on the day, Lieutenant Moss, and 62 other ranks were initially recorded as having been wounded, plus 19 other ranks posted as ‘Missing.’ For his gallantry at Hulluch, Captain B. Jacobs was later awarded a bar to his Military Cross, and Lieutenant Moss was award the M.C. Vincent’s brother; Second Lieutenant, Reginald Barnes Newton Moss had fallen whilst serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Saturday 7 October 1916 during the ‘Battle of the Somme.’

**SMITH, WALTER JAMES.** Drummer, 10954. 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers. Died Saturday 31 October 1914. Aged 28. Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Chatham, Kent. Son of William Henry Smith of 2, Pile Cottages, Preston, Faversham, Kent. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 22. Formerly Private, 8580, Royal Irish Fusiliers. Unfortunately, Walters service papers appear to be amongst those which were destroyed during a German air raid in the Second World War, and as such little appertaining to service can be added here. His former regimental number is that of a man who had enlisted in the Royal Irish Fusiliers early in 1912. At the commencement of the Great War, as a regular soldier Walter would have been serving in the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers which was stationed at Bordon, Hampshire as part of 3rd Brigade, 1st Division. Walters’ Medal Index card entry shows that he had served with the British Expeditionary Force from Thursday 13 August 1914, it being the
day that the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers had arrived on the SS Gloucester Castle at the French port of Havre. Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel, Henry Edward Burleigh Leach (later Brigadier-General, C.B., C.M.G., C.V.O.), the battalion had sailed from Southampton on Wednesday 12 August 1914. Several military historians and the like, with real justification have over the years drawn attention too the fact that the action by the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers on the day that Walter fell, was arguably of all the fighting that Walters' battalion participated in during the Great War in France, its heroic defence of Gheluvelt Château, just east of the village Gheluvelt, where he died stands out as its greatest achievement. At the culmination of 10 days' fighting in the mud and rain, on Saturday 31 October 1914 the battalion was holding a position in front of Gheluvelt Château, in touch with the Scots Guards on their left, and with the Welch Regiment in and in front of Gheluvelt Village on their right. Close in front of the battalion's trenches was a wood which, though it gave concealment from the German artillery observers, afforded their infantry good cover in which to collect for an attack. "C" and "B" Companies were on the right in rather exposed positions which were close to the wood. "D" Company on their left went back to join up with "A" Company and the Scots Guards on the edge of the Château grounds. Two platoons of "A" Company formed the battalion reserve inside the grounds of the Château. It had been a troubled night with constant sniping, and frequent shelling which developed shortly before daybreak into a bombardment of tremendous severity followed by repeated infantry attacks. The personnel of "C" Company in their exposed and vulnerable position on the right suffered severely, but the battalion stuck stubbornly to its line and beat back all the enemy attacks. One of these left a party of Germans established in a trench facing "B" Company, but so sited that a platoon of "A" Company, assisted by a Scots Guards machine gun, was able to enfilade it with devastating effect, which resulted in approximately 60 enemy soldiers surrendering. This success was a great encouragement and, in Lieutenant-Colonel Leach's own words, "instilled new life into everyone." A platoon which was comprised of "C" Company personnel, successfully counter attacked, and succeeded in driving the German infantrymen out of a small copse on the right front. Before long, however, the situation took a change for the worse. Though under heavy rifle fire, "D" and "B" Companies left were shielded from the shelling by the copse in front, but the remainder of "B" and "C" Company beyond them suffered heavily. The Welch were in a bad or worse plight, and some time after 1000 hours their right was overwhelmed, apparently by Germans who had penetrated into Gheluvelt from the south. The officers and other ranks serving in "C" Company found themselves under enfilade rifle and machine gun fire from its right. 41 year old Major William Lyttleton Lawrence, D.S.O. the Company Commander of "C" Company, from Chepstow, Glamorgan, South Wales, stuck stoutly to his position setting a magnificent example of steadfast courage. Before long the remaining company of the Welch was overwhelmed, and then from front, flank and rear the enemy swarmed over the battered trenches to which the remnants of "C" Company were tenaciously clinging. Major Lawrence heroically went down fighting to the last, and only a handful of men managed to force their way back
through the Germans who, pushing on, drove them and “B” Company back into the grounds of the Château early in the afternoon. The reserve, comprised of two platoons of “A” Company, had prepared a position on the east side of the Château grounds, and to this “D” Company and the remaining half of “A” Company fell back. In the meantime Lieutenant-Colonel Leach and part of his Battalion Headquarters had occupied a position along the light railway just west of the Château where the remnants of “B” and “C” Companies eventually rallied. With these and a few Scots Guardsmen, Lieutenant-Colonel Leach counter attacked. The effect of the charge was immediate. The Germans were surprised, many were shot or bayoneted, and others bolted throwing away rifles and equipment to lighten their load as they fled. In their flight they afforded targets to the men of “A” and “D” Companies, and to the personnel of the Scots Guards. The Scots Guards stood up on the bank and wrecked havoc and significant casualties among the retiring enemy, while Lieutenant-Colonel Leach and the men he commanded lined the edge of the Château grounds to the right. The position was still very insecure, as the right flank was quite open and the enemy were in Gheluvelt village beyond it. A bit later the Germans began bombarding the ground to the battalion’s right rear, and units of British Infantry were seen advancing. These were the 2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment who were coming up to make a counter attack, effectively to capitalize on the stout resistance which had been made. The Germans to the right of the battalion fled in confusion, and the Worcestershire personnel, prolonging the battalion's line towards Gheluvelt Village, and made that flank secure. Ripple, Kent native Sir John French, the Commander-in-Chief, in his book acknowledged the ‘indomitable courage and dogged tenacity’ which Walters’ battalion displayed. Following his death, Walter was initially posted as ‘Missing,’ but later the Army Council made the decision that for official purposes, it was to be assumed that he had died on or after 31 October 1914. Walter was amongst the 79 other ranks serving in the 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers that fell at Gheluvelt (now Geluveld), West-Vlaanderen, Belgium on Saturday 31 October 1914.

STENNETT, WILLIAM REGINALD. Lieutenant.
202nd Squadron, 61st Wing, Royal Air Force.
Died Saturday 4 May 1918. Aged 22.
Born Southsea, Hampshire.
Williams’ birth was registered in the Portsea Island, Hampshire, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1896. It was noted by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, that on one of the data sources that were checked, William is recorded as being a native of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. At the time of the 1901 census, the Stennett family resided at Alland Grange Farm House, Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 33 year old Donnington, Lincolnshire native William Stennett (senior), who was a Farmer and an employer. The census enumerator recorded William (junior) as being a 4 year old native of Southsea, Hampshire. At the time of the death of William (junior),
the Stennett family was still residing at Alland Grange Farm House, Minster, Isle of Thanet, Kent, but it was noted that William is numbered amongst the not insignificant number of Minster natives and residents who have not been commemorated on the Great War parish tribute which is in the form of a memorial plaque, which is located in the parish church of St. Mary, Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Prior to the formation of the Royal Air Force on Monday 1 April 1918, by the amalgamation of the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps, William had served as an officer in the former. William joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a Sub Lieutenant on Monday 10 January 1916, and following his initial training he undertook the Long Wireless Telegraphist course, which he successfully completed in September 1916. Following more training William became a Sub Lieutenant (Observer) R.N.A.S. on Wednesday 30 May 1917, just prior to being passed out at Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, as an Observer in June 1917. William was wounded on Sunday 21 October 1917, whilst serving in No 2 Squadron, Royal Naval Air Service, whilst flying as the Observer in a DH 4 machine (N6389), which was being flown by his Commanding Officer, Squadron Commander, Peregrine Forbes Morant Fellowes. On the day that he lost his life, William and his pilot Lieutenant J. P. Everett were engaged by a German aircraft which was being flown by Leutnant R. Spies, who shot them down over the north coast of France. William was killed in the resultant forced landing of their DH 4 (N5985) in the English Channel off the coast Bray Dunnes, but his pilot fortunately survived. A native of St Kilda, Victoria, Australia, Peregrine Forbes Morant Fellowes (1883-1955), who had been Williams’ Commanding Officer, was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Cross during the Great War, and was also Mentioned in Despatches. He eventually rose to the rank of Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force, and became an A.D.C. to H.M. King George VI.

STEWART, EDWARD THOMAS. Chief Stoker, 292532 (Ch). Royal Navy, H.M.S. Fairy. Died Monday 24 December 1917. Aged 37. Born Sturry, Canterbury, Kent 7 September 1880. Son of Frances Elizabeth Stewart (née Howard) of 10, Victoria Place, Faversham, Kent, and the late James Stewart. Buried Woodlands Cemetery, Gillingham, Kent. Grave Ref: Naval 26 1358. At the time of the 1901 census, the Stewart family was residing at Stone Rocks, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old Sturry native James Stewart, who was employed as a General Agricultural Labourer. Edward was not at the family home when the census was conducted, as he was serving as a Royal Navy Stoker on H.M.S. Sans Pareil, at Sheerness, Isle of Sheppy, Kent. Tragically, Edward was drowned on Christmas Eve 1917 whilst he was serving on the 380 ton C class Royal Navy destroyer H.M.S. Fairy.

THOMAS, WILLIAM JOHN. Private, 48855.
2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment.
Died Tuesday 17 April 1918. Aged 24.
Son of Mrs. T. Pilcher of Loos Villa, Marshborough, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent.
Husband of Louisa Alice Holness (formerly Thomas) (née Penfold) of 14, Defoe Crescent, Mile End, Colchester, Essex.
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 5, and on the Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent civic war memorial.
William married Miss Louisa Alice Penfold in the Eastry, Kent, Registration District during the last quarter of 1912.

YATES, LESLIE RICHARD JOHN. Private, M2/050876.
Reserve Motor Transport Company, Army Service Corps.
Died Wednesday 6 November 1918. Aged 23.
Born Faversham, Kent. Enlisted and resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Richard Yates and Mary Jane Yates (née Culver) of Faversham, Kent.
Husband of Kate Yates (née Wildash) of 2, Maida Vale, Island Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Treviso Communal Cemetery, Veneto, Italy.
Grave Ref: In North East part in a small plot.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Yates family resided at Faversham, Kent.
Head of the house was 30 year old Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppey, Kent native Richard Yates, who was employed as Brewery Labourer. Leslie served with the British Expeditionary Force from Tuesday 9 March 1915. He was numbered amongst the countless millions of victims of the worldwide Influenza pandemic aka Spanish flu, which lasted from approximately July 1918 to April 1919. The exact death toll of the pandemic will never be known, but the number is well in excess of those who died due to military actions during the Great War.

The Second World War
1939 – 1945
Armed Service Casualties

BACON, ALBERT GEORGE BERTIE. Private, 6353808.
2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, Army Air Corps.
Born Canterbury, Kent. Resided Kent.
Son of Albert Charles Bacon and Elizabeth May Bacon (née Jeffery) of Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Tabarka Ras Rajel War Cemetery, Jendouba, Tunisia.
Grave Ref: 1. B. 16.
Albert’s birth was recorded in the Blean, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1922. He originally served in the Queen’s Own Royal West
Kent Regiment. On Friday 5 March 1943 the 2nd Battalion, Parachute Regiment handed over to American units the sector which it held, and was transported to the Tamera Valley, Tunisia, where Albert was killed three day later whilst he was taking part in a counter attack by his battalion.

**BAILEY, GERALD LESLIE DONALD.** Sergeant, 930437. 
Died Friday 31 October 1941. Aged 17. 

Gerald’s birth was recorded in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1923. 220 Squadron, Royal Air Force, in which Gerald was serving at the time of his death, was an R.A.F. Coastal Command squadron that concentrated on anti-shipping duties until 1942, when it became one of the few R.A.F. squadrons to operate the American Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress bombers. Shortly after the commencement of the Second World War, 220 Squadron, Royal Air Force started carrying out patrols over the North Sea, having converted from Avro Ansons to Hudson aircraft between September and November 1939, which were used to extend operations over Norwegian and Dutch waters, for which a detachment was sent to R.A.F. St. Eval in November 1940. In April 1941 the squadron as a whole moved to R.A.F. Wick, Scotland, a detachment having been there since the previous month, and from R.A.F. Wick it continued to operate on anti shipping duties over Norwegian waters. Gerald had been in the four man crew of Hudson AM618 NR-M, which was being flown by Flight Lieutenant, George Colquhoun Hamilton Birchall, when it took off from R.A.F. Wick at 1606 hours on Friday 31 October 1941 on a South Stab Patrol. The Hudson failed to return to R.A.F. Wick after sending an SOS. All four crew were lost and are all commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

**BALSDON, DENYS FINLAY.** Wing Commander (Pilot), 34065. 
Royal Air Force. 97 Squadron, Royal Air Force. 
Died Thursday 18 December 1941. Aged 28. 
Born Torrington, Devon 1913. 
Son of the late Percy Robert Balsdon (1874-1920), and of Mabel Olive Balsdon (née Finlay) (1874-1959), of St. Aubines, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Phyllis Mary Balsdon (née Adair) of Portpatrick, Scotland. Buried Portpatrick Cemetery, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland. Grave Ref: Section A. Grave 206.

A regular pre-war Royal Air Force officer, Denys was an R.A.F. and international hockey player. In 1939 Denys married Miss Phyllis Mary Ralston Adair of Portpatrick, Scotland who was the youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs Percy John Adair of North West Castle, Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Scotland. He had been the officer selected to be the first Operational Commanding Officer of 97 Squadron, Royal Air Force during the Second World the War, and was Mentioned in Despatches. At 0930 hours on Thursday 18 December 1941, Denys took off from R.A.F. Coningsby, Lincolnshire, flying Manchester bomber L7490 OF-U taking part in a daylight raid on the French port of Brest, to attack the German battleships Gneisenau and the Scharnhorst. The aircraft being flown by Denys was the formation leader, and was seen to be hit by flak over the target area in the tail-plane and its elevator. Despite of the heavy damage suffered by his Manchester, Denys led the formation to the target and back to the English coast before handing over the lead. Reading the relevant entry in the 97 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Operations Record Book shows that :- "On reaching home base, the visibility being bad, overshot the aerodrome and on opening up the engines to apparently circle round again, the aircraft stalled and crashed, killing all the crew. The aircraft was completely burnt. The aircraft had been seen to be hit by flak over the target, smashing the tail-plane and elevator, the rear turret also being put out of action. The rear gunner was a casualty. W/C Balsdon having signalled for the ambulance to be ready on landing. W/C Balsdon led the formation to the target and back to the English coast and then gave over command to S/L Sherwood D.F.C. owing to damage caused by flak."


Johns' father; William John Adrian Caddick was serving as an Air Raid Warden when he was killed at Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent on Saturday 31 October 1942, and is amongst civilian casualties who are commemorated at Sturry.

Roberts' death was recorded in the Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1942.

**COOKE, BERNARD JOSEPH.** Marine, CH/24009. Royal Marines. 
Died Monday 26 August 1940. Aged 39. 
Son of John Cooke and Mary Cooke. 
Husband of Hilda Annie Cooke (née Brenchley) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. 
On the Second World War memorial panel in the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry, Bernard is commemorated with his surname spelt COOK. Via the superb website of Tim Backhouse www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk it was learned that Bernard is one of the eight officers and other ranks serving in the Royal Marines, who were killed during an enemy air raid that are commemorated on a memorial plaque, at Fort Cumberland, Eastney, Hampshire.

Died Saturday 9 May 1942. 
Son of Harold Ernest Green and Marjorie Byron Green (née Kelsey) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. 
Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Panel 74. 
A formation of 118 Squadron, Royal Air Force Spitfires were intercepted and shot down by German Focke-Wulf 190 fighters over St. Omer, Pas de Calais, France on Saturday 9 May 1942. The interception and attacks by the Luftwaffe pilots resulted in the losses of four of the Spitfires and the damaging of another, for the loss of only one Focke-Wulf 190. Spitfires shot down resulted in the losses of pilots, one of whom was Michael. The leader of the formation was 23 year old John Walker of Woolaton Park, Nottinghamshire, who is at rest at St. Leonard Church Cemetery, Woolaton, Nottinghamshire.

**HOLMES, ALAN JOHN.** Sergeant (Air Gunner), 1802916. Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. 207 Squadron, Royal Air Force. 
Died Saturday 8 July 1944. Aged 19. 
Son of William Albert Holmes and of Nellie Leslie Holmes (née Smith) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. 
Buried Marissel French National Cemetery, Beauvais, Oise, France. 
Grave Ref: Grave 285. 
Alan was serving as an Air Gunner on Lancaster bomber ND567 EM-V, which took off from R.A.F. Spilsby, Lincolnshire at 2245 hours on Friday 7 July 1944. The Lancaster was being flown by Flying Officer (Pilot), Trevor John Hordley, and was taking part on a raid on St. Leu d'Esserent, Oise, France. The bomber was in a force which was comprised of 208 Lancasters and 13 Mosquitos, mainly from No 5 Group, R.A.F. Bomber Command, but with some Pathfinder aircraft. The target for the raid was a flying-bomb storage dump in a group of tunnels which were formerly used for growing mushrooms at St Leu d'Esserent. The bombing was accurately directed on to the mouths of the tunnels and on to the
approach roads, thus blocking access to the flying bombs stored there. German night fighters intercepted the bombing force, and 29 Lancasters and 2 Mosquitos were lost. The loss of Lancaster bomber ND567 EM-V was amongst the 5 of 207 Squadron, which failed to return from the raid on St Leu d’Esserent. 106 Squadron, from R.A.F. Metheringham, also lost 5 of its 16 Lancasters which took part on the raid. On the night of 7/8 July 1944, 123 Lancasters and 5 Mosquitos of 1 and 8 Groups R.A.F. Bomber Command, carried out an accurate raid on the railway yards at Vaires without the loss of any aircraft. 106 aircraft of Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 9 Groups R.A.F. Bomber Command, took part on a diversionary sweep almost to the coast of Holland, and 7 Mosquitos of No. 5 Group dropped 'spoof' markers in support of the St. Leu d’Esserent raid. Lancaster bomber ND567 EM-V crashed at 0144 hours on Saturday 8 July 1944, on the edge of woods near Sérifontaine, to the west of Sancourt, Oise, France, killing 5 of the 7 crew who are all at rest at the Marissel French National Cemetery, Beauvais, Oise, France. Of the survivors the crash, Sergeant (Navigator), W.R.M.D. 'Mac' Brown successfully evaded being captured by the Germans, and Sergeant (Flight Engineer), George Baker evaded for a while but was then captured, and became a prisoner of war. On Saturday 8 July 1995 former Sergeant (Flight Engineer) George Baker, and Air Vice Marshal David Dick, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C., M.A., FRAeS., R.A.F. (Retd), (1924-1999) who was the President of 207 Squadron R.A.F. Association, were among those who laid wreaths at a ceremony to dedicate an impressive new stone memorial, commemorating the 5 crew by names who lost their lives on Saturday 8 July 1944. The new memorial was erected by the local populace to replace the original wooden cross. Trevor Hordley is also commemorated at St. John’s parish church, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, Wales. After the Second World War when the debris of war was cleared from in, and around the huge mushroom caves which were bombed, that are under the Thiverny Plateau at the town of St. Leu d'Esserent, near Chantilly, Oise, France, and the successful growing of mushrooms commenced again.

JUCKES, THOMAS ROLAND. M.C. Captain, 100294.
No.2 Troop, 3 Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, 6th Airborne Division.
Born Birmingham 8 September 1919 . Resided Kent.
Son of Ralph Juckes and Bethea Forrest Juckes (née Renwick) of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.
The Allied offensive in north-western Europe began with the Normandy landings of Tuesday 6 June 1944. Ranville where Thomas is at rest, was the first village to be liberated in France when the bridge over the Caen Canal was captured intact in the early hours of Tuesday 6 June, by the soldiers of the 6th Airborne Division who were landed nearby by parachute and glider. Thomas’s squadron which was commanded by Major Timothy Roseveare, was part of the 3rd Parachute Brigade. Thomas was badly wounded during a German mortar bombardment at Le Mesnil at approximately 1600 hours on Wednesday 28 June 1944. He had been supervising the placement of sandbags around the 1st Canadian Parachute
Battalion's area and, at was about to report to their commander on his progress when mortar round exploded two yards away from the Jeep in which he was sitting in the passenger seat, received a serious chest injury and immediately lost consciousness. Sitting beside him was Driver Holt who thankfully was unscathed, and he immediately drove Thomas to the Canadian's Regimental Aid Post. He was later moved to the main Dressing Station at Ranville, but never regained consciousness. Thomas was buried at the Divisional cemetery at Ranville church; where his funeral was conducted by his friend, Captain/Reverend John Gwinnet M.C. who was the Chaplain of the 9th (Home Counties) Parachute Battalion, Parachute Regiment. For his actions on D-Day, Thomas was awarded the Military Cross. His citation for the award reads:- “From the time he was dropped near Ranville on the night 5th/6th June until 1800 hours 8th June when his Troop was relieved in their defensive position, this officer has displayed the very highest powers of leadership, initiative and personal courage. He has been continually engaged in the execution of RE tasks in the face of the enemy and has led his Troop in an infantry role in a most aggressive fashion. After completing the demolition of two bridges at Bures he led a party including a platoon of 8th Para Battalion and forced a passage through Troarn killing a number of Germans and taking prisoners and carried out further demolitions on the partially demolished Troarn Bridge. On withdrawing to the Brigade area at Le Mesnil his Troop occupied defensive positions for 30 hours inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. During this time he supervised the laying of an anti-tank minefield under fire. Throughout the whole of this time he lost no opportunity in harassing the enemy. This officer set a magnificent example to his junior officers and men by his tireless energy, enthusiasm and offensive eagerness.” The late Major Tim Roseveare, D.S.O. (1914-2001), always tried to make the annual pilgrimage to Normandy on 6 June, where he was welcomed at Troarn as its liberator. His name, and the 3rd Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers plaque have a prominent place of honour on the wall behind the Troarn civic war memorial, and part of the main street was renamed after Tim Roseveare.

MARSH, CHARLES LEONARD. Cook.
Merchant Navy, S.S. Lindenhall (West Hartlepool).
Died Saturday 7 November 1942. Aged 29.
Born Thursday 13 February 1913.
Husband of Nancy May Marsh (née Phelps) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Charles marriage to Nancy May Phelps was recorded in the Bridge, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1939. Charles’ Merchant Navy Discharge number was R144279. Built in 1937, the 5,247 ton S.S. Lindenhall was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic Ocean whilst travelling from Rio de Janeiro to the United Kingdom, laden with a cargo of 8400 tons of ore on Saturday 7 November 1942. Charles was numbered amongst the 42 members of the ships crew of 48 who perished, when the S.S. Lindenhall was sunk by the German uboat, U-508 which was commanded by 26 year old Kapitänleutnant, Georg Staats. At the time of her loss, the S.S. Lindenhall was travelling in Convoy TAG-19, and was one of two ships in the convoy which were sunk by the
U-508 on Saturday 7 November 1942. The ship was the 7,176 ton American merchant ship the Nathaniel Hawthorne which was commanded by Master, Richard C. Brannan. At 0427 hours the Nathaniel Hawthorne was hit on the port side by two torpedoes from the U-508, approximately 40 miles northeast of Isla de Margarita, Venezuela.

MURDOCH, THOMAS. Gunner, 1750465.
111 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery.
Died Monday 15 May 1944. Aged 36.
Born and resided Dumfries, Scotland.
Husband of Dorothy May Murdoch (née Gore) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Sturry and Westbere Cemetery, Grave Ref: Section E. Grave 215.
Thomas’ marriage to Dorothy May Gore was recorded in the Bridge, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1944, sadly his death was recorded in the New Forest, Hampshire, Registration District during the second quarter of 1944. The 111 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery was a Territorial Army formation, which was formed in October 1940 as part of the 42 Anti Aircraft Brigade, 12 Anti Aircraft Division. The month after Thomas died, the 111 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, as part of the 2nd Army left the United Kingdom to take part in the North West Europe Campaign.

ROSE, HENRY RAYMOND JOHN.
Flight Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), 1802330.
Born County Durham. Resided Kent.
Son of Henry W. John Rose and Lily Rose (née Maynard) of Sturry, Kent.
Buried Maynamati War Cemetery, Comilla, Bangladesh.

Henry is commemorated on the Second World War memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry, as Raymond Rose, which is possibly the name by which he was known by all and sundry in the village and elsewhere. Henrys’ birth was recorded in the Sunderland, County Durham, Registration District during the third quarter of 1923. At the time of Henrys’ death, 99 Squadron, Royal Air Force in which he was serving, was being commanded by Wing Commander L.B. Ercolani, D.S.O., D.F.C. and was stationed at R.A.F Dhubulia, Bengal, India (now Bangladesh). On Sunday 21 January 1945, Liberator heavy bombers of 99 Squadron, Royal Air Force were amongst the 4 squadrons of B24 Liberators which were supporting the landings on Ramree Island, during the Battle of Ramree Island, which was fought from Sunday 14 January 1945 to Thursday 22 February 1945. These operations formed part of the strategic advance of the 15th Indian Corps down the Arakan coast with a view to securing the airfields on Ramree Island, from which 14th Army could be supplied on their advance on Rangoon, Burma, and operations could be mounted for the capture of the port by sea should it become necessary, which in
fact did prove to be the case. Two of the B24 Liberators of Henrys’ squadron collided and both aircraft disintegrated. All the crews aboard both aircraft were killed, and all 20 are now at rest at Maynamati War Cemetery, Bangladesh.

Civilian Second World War Casualties

**CADDICK, WILLIAM JOHN ADRIAN.** Air Raid Warden.  
Died Saturday 31 October 1942. Aged 54.  
Husband of Edith May Caddick of Wayside, Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
William died at Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent, as the result of the air raid briefly mentioned in the introduction of the Sturry commemorations.

**CAPPER, BARBARA VIOLET.**  
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 4.  
Daughter of Gunner Harold Edgar Capper, Royal Artillery, and Violet Adelaide Capper (née Thatcher) of 21 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.

**CAPPER, MURRAY ALEXANDER.**  
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 18 months.  
Daughter of Gunner Harold Edgar Capper, Royal Artillery, and Violet Adelaide Capper (née Thatcher) of 21 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.  
The father of Barbara and Murray; Gunner, 1715929, Harold Edgar Capper, of 387 Battery, 121 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, died at Wandsworth, London on Tuesday 13 August 1946, and was aged 37. He was the son of William Capper and Ellen Capper, and the husband of Violet Adelaide Capper (née Thatcher) of 63, High Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk.  
Buried Beccles Road Cemetery, Lowestoft, Suffolk.  
Grave Ref: Section 25. Grave 535.

**CASTLE, ROSETTA.**  
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 65.  
Born Faversham, Kent. Resided Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
Daughter of the late E. and M. Broad of Faversham, Kent.  
Wife of Albert George Castle of the Red Lion, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.  
The marriage of Rosetta and her husband was recorded in the Faversham, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1915. The details of Rosetta’s parents as shown above are as extracted from her Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details. It should be pointed out that the transcriber of these brief commemorations found an exact match for a Rosetta Broad who was born in Teynham near Faversham, Kent, but her parents are recorded on census entries as having been William Thomas Broad and Elizabeth Tidy Broad.

**COLLINS, JOHN EDWARD.**  
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 12.
Son of Rose Ellen Collins of 1 Church Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent, and of the late Leonard Thomas Collins.
John died at 12, High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent, which was the home of the Johncock family where he and June Peel had gone to play with the Johncock children.

HAMPshire, John Thomas. Firewatcher.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 57.
Born Wingham, Kent.
Son of Alfred Hampshire and Matilda Hampshire.
Husband of Lydia Frances Hampshire (née Bradley) of Taynters Close, High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
John died with his wife who is the next casualty briefly commemorated. Mr. and Mrs. Hampshire were both killed at their home.

HAMPshire, Lydia Frances.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 57.
Born Preston next Wingham, Canterbury, Kent.
Daughter of William Bradley and Frances Bradley.
Wife of John Thomas Hampshire of Taynters Close, High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Please also see the last casualty briefly commemorated.

JOHNCOCK, Audrey Rama.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 9.
Daughter of Ernest Albert Johncock and Rosie Mabel Johncock of 12 High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Audrey, her mother, father and brother who are the next three casualties briefly commemorated, all died together at their home 12, High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

JOHNCOCK, Ernest Albert. Home Guard.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 45.
Born Temple Ewell, Dover, Kent.
Son of Albert E. and Minnie Johncock of Nelson Crescent, Napier, New Zealand.
Husband of Rosie Mabel Johncock of 12 High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

JOHNCOCK, Rosie Mabel.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 44.
Daughter of Herbert and P. Hambrook of Woodside, Ashford Road, Thanington, Canterbury, Kent.
Wife of Ernest Albert Johncock of 12 High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
When rescuers located Rosie Johncock, she was found lying over the bodies of 12 year old John Collins and 10 year old June Peel, who had gone to the Johncock home to play with her children, and had lost her life whilst trying to shield John and June with her body.
JOHNCOCK, ROY PHILIP.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 11.
Son of Ernest Albert and Rosie Mabel Johncock of 12 High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.

PEEL, JUNE EVELYN.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 10.

PHILLIPS, PERCIVAL JAMES (Jimmy).
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 6.
Son of Percival Phillips and Amy Phillips of Forge House, High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Young Percival was always known to all and sundry at Sturry as Jimmy.

SMITH, IVY ETHEL.
Died Friday 7 June 1942. Aged 17.
Daughter of Amy Phillips (formerly Smith), of 1, High Street, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent, and of the late William Smith.
Ivy died at Claremont, Island Road, Sturry.

STRAND, WALTER. Leading Fireman.
National Fire Service.
Died Saturday 31 October 1941. Aged 30.
Husband of Mary Alice Strand of Goose Farm, Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Walter died at Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent.

TAYLOR, VERA. As commemorated on the memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sturry appears to be the following local casualty:-

CHAMBERS, VERA BLANCHE.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 35.
Resided at 2, Forge Cottages, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Daughter of the late Thomas Chambers.
Vera died at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury, Kent.

WARD, WILLIAM EDWIN. Fireman.
National Fire Service.
Died Friday 7 June 1941. Aged 31.
Son of William Ward and Harriet Ward, of 16, Sweech Gate Cottages, Broad Oak, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Ruby Ward of 11, Deansway Avenue, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
William died at Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent.
The Second World War
1939 – 1945
Lost Casualties, Armed Service & Civilians

BRADSHAW, RONALD THOMAS. Flight Lieutenant (Flying Instructor), 44308. 206 Squadron, Royal Air Force.
Died Saturday 4 November 1942. Aged 34.
Son of Richard Bradshaw and Alice Anne Bradshaw.
Husband of Violet Ellen Margaret Bradshaw (née Thompson) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Commemorated on the Havant, Hampshire, civic war memorial.
Formerly Warrant Officer, 354501, General Duties Branch, Royal Air Force.
Ronald's marriage to Violet Ellen Margaret Thompson was recorded in the Blean, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1934. Ronald was granted a commission as a Pilot Officer in the Royal Air Force "For the Duration of the Hostilities," with seniority with effect from Tuesday 30 July 1940.

BRICKWOOD, ALBERT CHARLES. Lance Corporal, 7684080. 3 Divisional Provost Company, Corps of Military Police.
Died Friday 31 May 1940. Aged 38.
Son of Arthur and Anne Jane Brickwood.
Husband of Grace Janet Brickwood of “Brickwood,” Hoath Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried De Panne Communal Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: Special Memorial. Plot 1. Row A. Grave 27.
There are now 259 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the Second World War in the above cemetery, and 79 of the burials are unidentified.

DODSON, FLORRIE MONA.
Died Saturday 31 October 1942. Aged 25.
Wife of Private, Norman Douglas Dodson, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) of Oxley House, Popes Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Florrie died at Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent.

ELLIOTT, DORA.
Died Tuesday 18 November 1941. Aged 51.
Widow of John Elliott of 6, Browns Cottages, Fordwich, Canterbury, Kent.
Dora was numbered amongst the victims of the “Sturry Blitz,” who lost their lives on Tuesday 18 November 1941.

GEE-WILLIAMS, PAUL. Lieutenant, 284554.
Royal Sussex Regiment, attached to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Died Tuesday 1 February 1944.
Born Swansea. Resided Manchester.
Son of Thomas and Marion Gee-Williams.
Husband of Muriel Elsie Gee-Williams of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Minturno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: VIII. F.14.
Pre war member of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

**GRIFFITHS, ALFRED WILLIAM.** Fireman.
National Fire Service.
Died Saturday 31 October 1942.
Son of Frederick William and Sarah Ann Griffiths of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Winifred Lavinia Griffiths of 42, Watling Street, Canterbury, Kent.
Alfred died at Watling Street, Canterbury, Kent, during a German bombing raid on the city, during the course of which bombers dropping 52 tons of bombs, and causing extensive casualties. In a single incident, which was an attack on a bus, 10 people were killed.

**HILL, LAWRENCE GRANDFIELD.** Major, 112626.
Royal Artillery.
Born Ealing, Middlesex. Resided Kent.
Son of William James Hill and the late Maud Emily Hill.
Husband of Olive Gladys Hill of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
At the time of the 1911 census, the Hill family was residing at 129, Kenilworth Court, Putney, Surrey. Head of the house was 49 year old High Wycombe native William James Hill, who was employed as a Glove Buyer. William's wife was recorded as being 36 year old Gloucester, Gloucestershire native Agnes Evelyn Hill. With effect from Saturday 6 July 1940, Lawrence was given a Temporary commission as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery.

**McNULTY, JOHN JAMES.** Leading Stoker, C/KX 91908.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Candytuft. (K 09).
Died Wednesday 10 September 1941. Aged 22.
Son of John and Isabella McNulty (née Cain) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Husband of Marie McNulty (née Leaden) of Eccles, Lancashire.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 47, Column 1, as on the photograph shown above.
H.M.S. Candytuft on which John was serving at the time of his death, was a 925 ton Flower class Royal Navy corvette which had been commissioned on Friday 16 August 1940. Commanded by Lieutenant-Commander (retired) Frank Bently Collinson, R.N.R., R.D., on Wednesday 10 September 1941 whilst she was in the North Atlantic, escorting convoy HX 148, John's ship suffered a boiler explosion. John was amongst the 14 members of the ships complement who were killed in the incident. In addition to those who lost their lives, 11 other sailors were injured.
H.M.S. Candytuft was successfully taken in tow to St. Johns, Newfoundland, which took five days. Safely at St. Johns the bodies of those who died were removed from the ship, and the injured taken to a Canadian Naval Hospital which was in the basement of one of the colleges there. Following temporary repairs, H.M.S. Candytuft sailed to New York, U.S.A. where repairs to her were completed in February 1942. On Sunday 15 September 1940, John had married Miss Marie Leadon of Eccles, Lancashire at the parish church of Hersden, Canterbury, Kent.

MOORE, FRANK ERNEST. Private, 10568008. 43 Divisional Workshops, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Died Sunday 7 June 1942. Aged 29. Buried Sturry and Westbere Cemetery, Grave Ref: Section E. Grave 161. Frank’s death was recorded in the Bridge, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1942.

PICKERSGILL, PAUL BERNARD. Flying Officer (Pilot), 41057. 211 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died Saturday 7 December 1940. Aged 21. Son of Frederick Oliver Pickersgill, O.B.E., and Ethel Mary Pickersgill of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Buried Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece. Grave Ref: 5. C. 13. On Saturday 16 November 1940 the personnel of 211 Squadron, Royal Air Force disembarked from H.M.S. Gloucester at the Greek port of Piraeus, Athens. The following day they arrived at Menidi (Tatoi), and their squadron was one of the first R.A.F. units to move to Greece following the Italian invasion. Its primary role whilst deployed there was to bomb the Italian bases which were in Albania. The squadron remained in Greece for five months, but was forced to evacuate after the German invasion in April 1941. Paul was the pilot of Bristol Blenheim bomber L4926, which took off from Menidi at 1300 hours on Saturday 7 December 1940, at which time he was the leader of “B” Flight. The bomber was one of nine which were detailed to bomb the harbour and ships at Valona, Albania. The formation was led by Squadron Leader (later Air Vice-Marshal), James Richmond Gordon-Finlayson, the elder son of General Sir Robert Gordon-Finlayson K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. and Lady Mary Gordon-Finlayson O.B.E. Squadron Leader, Gordon-Finlayson was the pilot of Bristol Blenheim bomber L6670, but he was forced to abort the flight, and return back to Menidi due to the adverse weather conditions which were being encountered, plus the severe icing conditions which were being experienced. Paul’s bomber flew into hills near Lamia, Greece, during severe weather whilst en route to Albania, killing Paul and the other 2 members of the crew. Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner) Norman Alfred Hallett, and 23 year old Sergeant Harry Taylor of Ely, Cambridgeshire, are buried in graves on each side to that of Paul at Phaleron War Cemetery, Greece. Bristol Blenheim bomber L1535, which was being flown by 22 year old Pilot Officer (Pilot), Guy Inglis Jerdein of St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, was the other aircraft of 211 Squadron, Royal Air Force that was lost on the raid, and it too flew into hills near...
Lamia, killing the 3 crew. Squadron Leader, Gordon-Finlayson was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, it being the first award for the operations in Greece, and the following year he received the Distinguished Service Order. Paul's father was an Assistant Regional Controller, Ministry of Labour and National Service during the Second World War, for which he was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1947.


Thanks are due to Ms. Elizabeth Wright for very kindly providing the above photograph for inclusion here.

SETTERFIELD, LILIAN MABEL. Died Friday 18 December 1942. Aged 37.
Daughter of Alfred William Setterfield of Providence Place, Canterbury Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent. Lillian was injured during the air raid at Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent on Saturday 31 October 1942. On Friday 18 December 1942 Lillian died whilst she was a patient receiving treatment for her injuries, at the Hurstwood Park War Emergency Hospital, Haywards Heath, Sussex. Her death was recorded in the Cuckfield, Sussex, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1942.

Son of Harry Stingemore and Emma Stingemore (née Bodger) of Sturry, Canterbury, Kent.
Buried Eu Communal Cemetery, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref: British Plot, Grave 11.
Frederick’s parents were married in the Taunton, Somerset, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1906. Prior to Frederick’s birth his parents had been residing at 65, Arral Street, Six Bells, Abertillery, Monmouthshire, Wales, when the 1911 census was conducted. Head of the house was 25 year old Highbridge, Somerset, native Harry Stingemore, who was employed as a Timberman's Labourer (underground). Emma Stingemore was recorded as being a 30 year old native of Wellington, Somerset, by the census enumerator. Frederick was a pre Second World War member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), and at the
commencement of the war the 4th Battalion was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel, John Dean, V.C., T.D. and was part of the 133 (Kent and Sussex) Infantry Brigade. On Friday 10 November 1939, Major, Acting/Lieutenant-Colonel, (later Brigadier) Frederick A.J.E. Marshall D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C. was placed in command of the battalion, which arrived at the French port of Cherbourg just 8 days later. In France the battalion was quite quickly scattered over quite a wide area. The battalion was still split when the German offensive commenced on 10 May 1940, and orders for the whole to concentrate at Nantes were not received until 18 May, at which time it was comprised of 34 officers and 748 other ranks. Following several moves which were due to the speed of the German ‘Blitzkrieg,’ the battalion reached the town of Fécamp, in the Seine-Maritime department of the Haute-Normandie region, at 0500 hours on Monday 10 June 1940. The position assigned to the battalion at Fécamp was a ravine, which was located about a mile to the north-east of the town. Fresh orders were received by the battalion, to be ready to move again at 1300 hours, but at about 1230 hours firing was heard in Fécamp. In response to the firing, patrols went out from the battalion in an attempt to ascertain what the situation was. Major Marshall very quickly ordered the three battalions of the 25 Brigade to take up more advantageous defendable positions on higher ground. When the patrols returned and reported, it was patently clear that the enemy was intending to launch an attack on all of the positions at and around Fécamp. Major Marshall realised that an attempted withdrawal would have been fatal, and instructed each of the battalions to hold its position until after dark, and then try and reach the port of La Harve which is approximately 27 miles to the south of Fécamp. It would seem likely that Frederick lost his life during the nighttime withdrawal from Fécamp by his battalion. Major Frederick Adrian Joseph Evans Marshall, whose actions doubtless saved the lives of many men at Fécamp, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel on Saturday 6 September 1943. Having risen to the rank of Brigadier he died at the British Hospital, Hanover, Germany on Sunday 12 October 1947, and is at rest at St. Martins Churchyard, Canterbury, Kent.
THIS CHAPEL IS DEDICATED TO THE GLORY
OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE OF THIS
PARISH WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE
SECOND WORLD WAR. 1939-1945.
H.M.FORCES.

ALBERT BACON  GERALD L.BAILEY
DENYS F.BALSDON  JOHN CADDICK
ROBERT CARTER  BERNARD I.COOK
MICHAEL B.GREEN  ALAN HOLMES
THOMAS R.JUCKES  CHARLES MARSH
THOMAS MURDOCH  RAYMOND ROSE.

CIVILIANS KILLED BY ENEMY ACTION.
BARBARA CAPPER  MURRAY CAPPER
WILLIAM CADDICK  JOHN E.COLLINS
ROSETTA CASTLE  LYDIA F.HAMPSHIRE
JOHN I.HAMPSHIRE  ERNEST A.JOHNCOCK
ROSE M.JOHNCOCK  ROY P.JOHNCOCK
AUDREY R.JOHNCOCK  JUNE E.PEEL
PERCIVAL J.PHILLIPS  IVY E.SMITH
WALTER STRAND  VERA TAYLOR
WILLIAM E.WARD

77
TO THE GLORY
OF GOD AND
IN GRATEFUL
REMEMBRANCE
OF OUR
CLORIOUS DEAD
1914 - 1918

G. BAKER  R. COURT
W. BAKER  P. DIVERS
W. BENTLEY G. ELVEY
A. BOURNE W. FACC
A. BOURNE J. FARRIER
L. BOWLER J. GAMBRILL
E. BUBB H. GAMMON
S. CHAMPS L. HILLS