

# SUTTON VALENCE



The village tribute is located on a very busy main road. **Those wishing to view the war memorial close up should take great care crossing the road here (there have been fatalities here).**

The memorial itself is a fine example of a Portland stone war memorial. In fact it is of a very unusual design depicting an obelisk mounted on a Portland stone plinth set into a very old Kent Ragstone wall. The memorial was placed there after the Great War in the 1920's (when the road was not so busy)...

The Great War  
1914 -1919

APPS J.H.M

**Second Lieutenant Jack Harry Mason APPS. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.** Died 20<sup>th</sup> November 1917 aged 19 years. Son of Harry Mason Apps and Kate Helena Apps of the Nest, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Buried Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave reference - V. F. 15.

BATES G

**Able Seaman 210136 George BATES. Royal Navy (R.N). (RFR/CH/B/9776) HMS Cressy.** Died 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1914. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference 2.

Recorded on the war memorial as Gunner Royal Navy.

BROOKS F

**Private 5070 Frank BROOKS. 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Blackheath & Woolwich), London Regiment.** Died 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916 aged 20 years. Enlisted Holborn, London. Resided Kentish Town, London. Son of George and Helen Brooks of Bower House, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Buried London cemetery and Extension, Longueval, Somme, France. Grave reference - 1A. C. 2.

BRYANT C.E

**Private 327937 Charles Ernest BRYANT. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment. Formerly (31357) Suffolk Regiment.** Died Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1917 aged 23 years. Born Pluckley. Enlisted Maidstone. Son of George Bryant of Providence Place, Goudhurst, Kent. Buried in the Mendighem Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium. Grave reference I.F.16.

CLUBBE W.H

**Gunner 154042 William Horace CLUBBE. "D" Battery, 121<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.** Died 10<sup>th</sup> June 1917 aged 30 years. Enlisted and resided Maidstone. Husband of A A Homewood (formerly Clubb) of Lower Road, Sutton Valence, Kent. Buried Mendighem Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave reference - I. E. 4.

## COURT C

**Leading Stoker 297567 Charles COURT. Royal Naval Reserve. (RFR/CH/B/9663). H.M.S "Hogue".** Died 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1914 aged 34 years. Son of Mary Court. Husband of E M Court of 111 Northborough Road, Norbury, London. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference - 4.

## DOVEY H

**Private 201385 Harry DOVEY. 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 1917 aged 30 years. Born Biddenden. Enlisted Maidstone. Son of Benjamin and Louisa Dovey of Sutton Valence, near Maidstone. Buried in the Gaza War Cemetery, Israel. Grave reference XXX.D.13.

## DOWN T

**Private CH/19201 Thomas Eagles DOWN. Royal Marine Light Infantry. H.M.S. Vanguard.** Died 9<sup>th</sup> July 1917 aged 21 years. Husband of Lizzie Charlotte Down of 3 Lower Street, Broomfield, Maidstone, Kent. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference - 25.

Thomas's name also appears on the nearby Leeds war memorial.

Virtually all 823 of the ships company died when HMS Vanguard exploded at 10pm resultant of unstable Cordite in the ship's magazine. In 1982 the wreck of HMS Vanguard was declared an official protected war grave.

## EDMED A

**Private 466543 Alfred EDMED. 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment).** Died 21<sup>st</sup> August 1917. Age 31. Born Kent 6<sup>th</sup> January 1886. Enlisted Edmonton, Alberta, Canada 1<sup>st</sup> July 1915. Son of Isaac and Frances Edmed of 2 Landgate (Sandgate on CWGC), Rye, Sussex. Husband of Edith Edmed of Carisbrooke Cottage, Maltmans Hill, Smarden, Kent. Commemorated on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Commemorated on the war memorial as Canadian Signals.

## EXCELL G

**Private L/7072 George Frederick EXCELL. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1915. Born Hawkenbury, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury. Resided Hawkenbury. Buried Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Ieper, Belgium. Grave reference - VII. D. 12.

#### FISHENDEN H.A

**Signalman London/Z/2182 Henry Arthur FISHENDEN. Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. HMS Raccoon.** Died 9<sup>th</sup> January 1918 aged 31 years. Son of Elias and Elizabeth Fishenden of Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Husband of Lizzie S Fishenden of Mount Pleasant, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Chatham, Kent. Panel reference - 31.

#### FORD A.W

There are 9 possibles to this man none with any obvious local connection. The closest in terms of residence is near Bath –

**Private 66413 Arthur Walter FORD. Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC).** Died 27<sup>th</sup> September 1917. Born Box, Wiltshire. Enlisted Bath. Resided Box.

#### GILES E.V

**Private L/9107 Ernest Victor GILES. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died 12<sup>th</sup> June 1916. Born Sutton Valence. Enlisted Maidstone. Buried Basra War cemetery, Iraq. Grave V. W. 2.

#### HOMEWOOD P

**Private SD/1371 Percy Edward HOMEWOOD. 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (R.S.R).** Died 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918. Born Headcorn. Enlisted Tunbridge Wells. Buried Jeancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Aisne, France. Grave reference - II. B. 13.

#### HOMEWOOD V

**Gunner 63 Victor J HOMEWOOD. 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Counties Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (RFA).** Died 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1916. Buried Basra War Cemetery, Iraq. Grave reference - III. N. 15.

#### HYLAND F

**Lance Corporal 46404 Frederick Harry HYLAND. 99<sup>th</sup> Company, Machine Gun Corps (MGC). Formerly (5442) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 18<sup>th</sup> February 1917 aged 23 years. Born Maidstone. Enlisted Staplehurst. Resided Maidstone. Son of William and Ada Hyland of Forge Farm, Hawkenbury, Staplehurst. Husband of Alice Elizabeth Hyland, of High Street, Sutton valence, Maidstone, Kent. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Listed on the memorial as a Buffs man.

#### MAYTUM W

**Private T/240093 Wilfred George MAYTUM. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 13<sup>th</sup> July 1917 aged 23 years. Born Sutton Valence. Enlisted Sutton Valence. Resided Sutton Valence. Son of Walter and Phoebe Maytum of High Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Buried Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq.

#### MUMMERY H.N.S

**Captain Harry Norman Samuel MUMMERY. Highland Light Infantry. Attached 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion HLI. Formerly Private (1301) London Regiment.** Died 6<sup>th</sup> August 1918 aged 24 years. Son of A W Mummery and Annie F Mummery of School House, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Buried Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Hessen, Germany. Grave reference - I. H. 5.

Harry died whilst being imprisoned as a Prisoner of War (POW).

#### MARTIN G

**Private L/9119 George Harold MARTIN. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died 15<sup>th</sup> January 1916. Born Tenterden. Enlisted Maidstone. Buried in the Kut War Cemetery, Kut, Iraq. Grave reference G.13.

#### RABEY W

**Private G/8591 William Thomas RABEY. 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 aged 31 years. Born West Ham, London. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Sutton Valence. Husband of Mrs M A Genn of Lower Cottages, Boyton Court, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Buried Tancrez Farm Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave reference - I. H. 32.

#### SHARP F

**Private L/7411 Frederick SHARP. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died 17<sup>th</sup> April 1915 aged 28 years. Born Langley, Kent. Enlisted Maidstone. Husband of Fanny Amelia Sharp of Gurrs Cottage, Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, Belgium.

#### SPICE S.A (brother)

**Lance Corporal T/1068 Arthur Stanley SPICE. 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 19<sup>th</sup> September 1916 aged 23 years. Born Woodend, Northamptonshire. Enlisted Sutton Valence. Resided Sutton Valence. Son of Arthur and Mary Louisa Spice of Mount House, Sutton

Valence, Kent. Buried locally in Sutton Valence (St Mary) Churchyard, Sutton Valence, Kent. Grave reference - D. 37.

Listed on the memorial as S.A SPICE. Arthur probably preferred to be known by his second given name (Stanley).

#### SPICE E.J (brother)

**Private 72808 Edgar Joseph SPICE. 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Formerly (136094) 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.** Died 21<sup>st</sup> September 1918 aged 18 years. Born Synesham, Brackley, Northamptonshire. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Sutton Valence. Son of Arthur and Mary Spice of Mount House, Sutton Valence, Kent. Buried Epehy Wood cemetery, Somme, France. Grave VI. A. 6.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers was a reserve young man's (graduated) battalion consisting of young men between the ages of 16 and 18 who were too young to serve overseas. Upon reaching 18 they were normally drafted overseas.

#### STONEHAM R.W

**Private T/240011 Robert W STONEHAM. 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).** Died 15<sup>th</sup> February 1917. Born Maidstone. Enlisted Sutton Valence. Resided Sutton Valence. Buried Amara War cemetery, Iraq. Grave reference - XXI. M. 14.

#### UNDERDOWN F

**Private 34773 Fred UNDERDOWN. 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.** Died 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1916 aged 22 years. Born Chart Sutton. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Maidstone. Son of William and Jane Underdown of Chart Sutton. Husband of Alice Underdown of Sutton Valence, Maidstone, Kent. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

#### UNDERDOWN T

**Sapper T UNDERDOWN. Royal Engineers – No Trace**

#### WHATMAN C

**Private 65505 John WHATMAN. 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Formerly (21186) Royal Sussex Regiment.** Died 10<sup>th</sup> September 1917. Born Sutton Valence. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Sutton Valence. Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium.

Listed on the memorial as C WHATMAN (he possibly used one of his other middle names).

## WELCH J.G

**Private 24099 John George WELCH. 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Formerly (11129) Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).** Died 31<sup>st</sup> October 1916. Born Isleworth, Middlesex. Enlisted Maidstone. Resided Sutton Valence. Buried Delhi War Cemetery, India. Grave reference - 8. A. 11.

## TUKE B.M (Added in the 1920's)

### **Captain B M TUKE MC. Royal Army Medical Corps. No Trace**

This man's name appears to have been added after the war memorial had been constructed. It is more than likely that he died of wounds after the war. The parish council after carrying out their own investigation decided to add his name because his death was found to have been aggravated or caused as a consequence of his war service. There are literally hundreds of thousands of men like this whose names were never recorded on the death indexes...

## The Second World War 1939 – 1945

The Second World War Portland stone memorial is placed immediately beneath the Great War tribute. This stone needs urgent restoration because the names are now hardly legible. The authors had great difficulty transcribing these names. It is no exaggeration to state that if this decay continues unchecked, these men's correct identities could be lost to Sutton Valence forever if surviving records fail to show a local connection. This decay reflects badly on the parish council. Hopefully, a caring local resident reading this webpage will "pick up the gauntlet" and ensure that something is done before its too late...

## BATES A

**Private 6353043 Alfred George BATES. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).** Died 4<sup>th</sup> February 1944 aged 30 years. Born and resided Kent. Son of Mr and Mrs W Bates. Husband of M E Bates of Sutton Valence, Kent. Commemorated on the Cassino Memorial, Italy. Panel reference - 7.

## FINLAY C

**Sergeant (Pilot) 1288189 Colin Vernon FINLAY.** Died 14<sup>th</sup> May 1942 aged 20 years. Son of Arthur Reginald Gayer Finlay and Phyllis Carney Finlay of Sutton Valence, Kent. Buried Malta (Capuccini) Naval Cemetery. Protestant Section (Men's). Plot F. Grave reference - Collective grave 3.

ADAWAY L

**No Trace** – Probably another man who died of wounds after discharge from the service.

HORTON G

**Private 6345781 George HORTON. 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen`s Own Royal West Kent Regiment.** Died 21<sup>st</sup> May 1940 aged 19 years. Born and resided Kent. Son of William Edward and Agnes Elizabeth Horton of Sutton Valence, Kent. Buried Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery, Nord, France. Grave reference - Plot 4. Row A. Grave 19.

Pre war member of the regiment.

HUMPHREYS J

**Sergeant T/65106 Jack HUMPHREYS. 247 Motor Boat Company, Royal Army Service Corps.** Died at sea 21<sup>st</sup> February 1945 aged 26 years. Born and resided Kent. Son of John and Emily Humphreys of Langley, Kent. Commemorated on the Athens Memorial, Greece. Panel reference - Face 8.

MARTIN R

**No Trace** – too many R Martin`s

MILES B.R

**Sergeant 819012 Bernard A MILES. 95 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.** Died 6<sup>th</sup> June 1942 aged 28 years. Born Surrey. Resided Kent. Son of Francis J Miles and Edith A Miles. Husband of Dora Miles (nee Cheeseman). Buried Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Grave reference - 10. D. 23.

Pre war member of the regiment.

TRAPP L

**No Trace** – Probably another man who died of wounds after discharge from the service.

WHITE E

**Sergeant (Flight Engineer) 653213 Eric WHITE. RAF. 426 (Royal Canadian Air Force) Squadron.** Died 13<sup>th</sup> June 1944 aged 24 years. Son of Mr and Mrs Alfred White of Sutton Valence, Kent. Buried Cagnicourt Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

MCMXIV

MCMXVIII

ESPECIALLY THE FOLLOWING  
WHO DIED FOR US

SEC. LT J. H. M. APPS. 1/5<sup>TH</sup> N. F.

CR G. BATES. R. N.

PTE F. BROOKS. LONDON REGT

PTE C. E. BRYANT. CAMBS

CR W. H. CLUBBE. R. F. A.

L- STOKER C. COURT. R. N. R.

PTE H. DOVEY. R. W. K.

PTE T. DOWN. R. M.

PTE A. EDMED. CANADIAN SIGNS

PTE F. BROOKS. LONDON REGT

PTE C. E. BRYANT. CAMBS

CR W. H. CLUBBE. R. F. A.

L- STOKER C. COURT. R. N. R.

PTE H. DOVEY. R. W. K.

PTE T. DOWN. R. M.

PTE A. EDMED. CANADIAN SIGNS

PTE G. EXCELL. THE BUFFS.

SGN H. A. FISHENDEN. R. N.

PTE A. W. FORD. R. A. M. C.

PTE E. V. GILES. R. W. K.

PTE P. HOMEWOOD. R. S.

CR V. HOMEWOOD. R. F. A.

L- CPL F. HYLAND. THE BUFFS.

PTE W. MAYTUM. THE BUFFS.

CAPT H. N. S. MUMMERY. H. L. I.

PTE G. MARTIN. R. W. K.

PTE W. RABBY. R. W. K.

PTE P. HOMEWOOD. R. S.

CB V. HOMEWOOD. R. F. A.

L- CPL F. HYLAND. THE BUFFS.

PTE W. MAYTUM. THE BUFFS.

CAPT H. N. S. MUMMERY. H. L. I.

PTE G. MARTIN. R. W. K.

PTE W. RABEY. R. W. K.

PTE F. SHARP. R. W. K.

L- CPL S. A. SPICE. THE BUFFS.

PTE E. J. SPICE. R. F.

PTE R. W. STONEHAM. THE BUFFS.

PTE F. UNDERDOWN. R. F.

SAPR T. UNDERDOWN. R. E.

PTE C. WHATMAN. R. F.

PTE J. C. WELCH. BEDS REGT

PTE F. SHARP. R. W. K.

L- CPL S. A. SPICE. THE BUFFS.

PTE E. J. SPICE. R. F.

PTE R. W. STONEHAM. THE BUFFS.

PTE F. UNDERDOWN. R. F.

SAPR T. UNDERDOWN. R. E.

PTE C. WHATMAN. R. F.

PTE J. C. WELCH. BEDS REGT

CAPT B. M. TUKE. M. C. R. A. M. C.

