Westgate-on-Sea
British Legion Memorial
Thanks are due to Leigh and Sarah Hogben for providing the photographs for inclusion here of the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, British Legion Memorial, which is located at Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea. The memorial was first dedicated on 4 August 1923 by Henry Horace Pereira, The Bishop Suffragan of Croydon, at which time it commemorated 79 victims of the Great War. In 1951 an additional panel was erected at the base of the Great War commemorations, which is inscribed with the names of 29 Second World War casualties. The Great War element of the memorial bears the inscription:

BRITISH LEGION MEMORIAL "LEST WE FORGET"

The Second World War commemoration panel has the following inscription:

IN MEMORY ALSO OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE 1939-45 WAR THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES OF THE BOROUGH OF MARGATE AD 1951

Since the original transcriptions Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, British Legion Memorial, were posted on this website, and in much the same was as that of the Westgate-on-Sea civic war memorial has always done since it was added to the site a few years ago, it too always generates a consistently high numbers of hits monthly on the site. One of the people who we are pleased to learn visits www.kentfallen.com on a daily basis, is Gordon Brown (not the former Prime Minister). A former resident of the Isle of Thanet, Gordon now retired, resides in his native Edinburgh, but patently he still has fond and affectionate memories of the many years that he lived in the Thanet area of Kent. Very kindly, Gordon has informed the transcriber of these brief commemorations that a number of the casualties, who are commemorated on the British Legion War Memorial, have also been commemorated in the parish church of St. Saviours, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea. Gordon also said that St. Saviour's church contains a War Memorial Chapel, in which are memorials to local casualties who died in both of the world wars and in Iraq. He also said it contains hand-written Rolls of Honour, two of which name the Westgate men who were fighting for King and Country during the Great War, and that St. Saviours also contains a temporary memorial to the fallen. Incredibly these rare artifacts were only discovered as recently as June 2007 in a space between the back of the organ and the back of the side chapel altar. Needless to say we are extremely grateful to Gordon for providing us with the information appertaining to those commemorated at St. Saviours, which has allowed the transcriber to locate (hopefully correctly), some of those which were not positively identified on the original transcription. The additional information has however resulted in what appears to be a Great War casualty who was not commemorated by the IWGC, and if found to be so after more in-depth research has been carried out by ‘Kent Fallen,’ we will of course be submitted his case to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, to hopefully enable him to be finally officially commemorated after the passing of 96 years since his death.
BALLS, GEORGE. Private, G/4239.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 7 October 1916.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D,
and on the Birchington and Acol, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial, also in
the parish church of St. Saviours, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea.
George was posted to France on 17 September 1915. Unfortunately, on the both
the Westgate-on-Sea, British Legion Memorial, and on the Birchington and Acol
 civic war memorial, George has been erroneously commemorated with his
 surname spelt BALL. George was numbered amongst the 8 officers and 121
 other ranks that lost their lives in the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent
 Regiment) on 7 October 1916 during the ‘Battle of the Transloy Ridges.’ The
battalion total casualty roll for the day numbers 368, including their Medical
Officer, Captain Wilfred Pagen Royal Army Medical Corps, who is also
commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. 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 John Campbell Page, who was the only officer in the
battalion that was not either killed or wounded on 7 October 1916, led just forty
other ranks from the field after the ‘Battle of the Transloy Ridges,’ and was
subsequently awarded the Military Cross.

BEAL, ROBERT, M.M. Corporal, G/18421.
10th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent
County).
Died 29 September 1918.
Born St. Lukes, Shoreditch, Middlesex. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided
Garlinge, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Only child of Robert John Beal and Matilda ‘Tilley’ Beal of The Cottage, Saxon
Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen,
Belgium. Panel 106.
Formerly Private, 2615, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles. Robert enlisted at the
Drill Hall, Canterbury, Kent, in the Territorial Force on 16 May 1915 ‘For the
Duration of the War.’ At the time of enlisting, Robert stated that he was 19 years
old, employed as a Bottler, and that he resided at The Cottage, Saxon Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Initially, Robert served in the 3/1st Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, and on 15 June 1915 he was transferred to the 2/1st Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles. On 21 September 1916 he was posted to France, and on 11 October 1916 Robert was posted to the 11th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Lewisham), retaining his former rates of pay. Robert was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal on 23 February 1918, and to a Corporal on 7 May 1918 when he was posted to the 10th (Service) Battalion, Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County). Notification of the award of the Military Medal to Robert was published in The London Gazette on 21 August 1917. Robert’s M.M. was presented to his father after the Great War.

**BENNETT, HERBERT BISHOP.** Boy Telegraphist, J/55130. Royal Navy, H.M.S. Boxer. 
Died 8 February 1918. Aged 17. 
Born Hoxton, London 16 December 1900. 
Adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Sandwell of 10, Adrian Square, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. 
Commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 29, and on the Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent civic war memorial. 
At the time of the 1901 census, Herbert was residing at the home of 52 year old Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent native Emma Richardson who was a widow, a Laundress and an employer. The then 3 month old Herbert was described by the census enumerator as being a Nurse Child. H.M.S. Boxer was a 250 ton Royal Navy Ardent class torpedo boat destroyer that was launched in 1894. On 6 February 6 1918, she had collided with H.M.S. Decoy but survived the incident without much damage or loss of life. Just two days after the collision with H.M.S. Decoy, Herbert’s ship collided again, on that occasion it was with the hospital ship St. Patrick, just off the Isle of Wight to the south east of Dunnoise Point. On the latter occasion H.M.S. Boxer suffered a significant amount of structural damage, and Herbert lost his life, being the only crew member who was killed during the collision. The day after colliding with H.M.S. Decoy, H.M.S. Boxer finally came to rest South of Culver Cliff in the middle of Sandown Bay, Isle of Wight and sunk. At the time of her loss H.M.S. Boxer was the Royal Navy’s oldest serving destroyer. The Mr. and Mrs. Sandwell shown above, were entered here as shown on Herbert’s CWGC commemoration details, with neither of their Christian names or initials entered. They were probably Thomas Frank Sandwell and Sarah Ann Sandwell (née Coles), who were the natural parents of Sergeant Victor Sandwell, who is also commemorated on the war memorial. At the time of the 1901 census, the Sandwell family resided at 1, Princes Terrace, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 33 year old Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Thomas Frank Sandwell, who was employed as a Life Insurance Agent. As Herbert is commemorated on the Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent civic war memorial, it is probably of real significance that Sarah Ann Sandwell was a native of the village of Hadlow.
BLOWS, NORMAN WOODGATE JOSEPH. Private, 1754.
1/13th (County of London) Kensington Battalion, London Regiment.
Died Saturday 1 July 1916. Aged 21.
Son of Arthur Blows and Kate Mabel Blows (née Gurr) of 398A, Richmond Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.
Buried Hébuterne Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: IV. M. 11.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Blows family resided at 7, Brunswick Square, Herne Bay, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old Spitalfields, London native Arthur Blows, who was an Own Account Auctioneer & Estate Agent. At the time of enlisting in the army, Norman resided at Westbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Norman’s battalion was mobilised on 4 August 1914 at Iverna Gardens, Kensington, London, in the 4th London Brigade, 2nd London Division. Later that month it moved to Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, and its members (including Norman) were posted to France on 3 November 1914, at which time the battalion left from Watford, Hertfordshire and travelled by train to Southampton, which left Watford railway station at exactly 1100 hours. The following day the battalion sailed from Southampton onboard the Anchor-Brocklebank Limited 7,654 ton ship SS Matheran, which docked at the French port of Harve the following day. Norman’s battalion was fully committed during the ‘Battle of the Somme 1916’ from the time of the first attack on Saturday 1 July 1916 at the village of Gommecourt, when it was in support of the 1/14th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish). The leading waves of the 1/13th (County of London) Kensington Battalion, London Regiment did not reach further than no-mans land, and during the course of the day it suffered a total of 326 casualties. On 20 November 1920, Norman’s father submitted a formal application to be furnished with the date clasp of his late sons 1914 Star. At the time of making his application; Arthur Blows address for correspondence was Auctioneer & Estate Agency Offices, 40, George Street, Richmond, Surrey. At the time of his death, Norman’s home address was at 154, Shakespeare Road, Gillingham, Kent, and during the Great War his father also ‘did his bit’ for the war effort, when he was employed as a Civilian Clerk by the army.

BRASS, JOHN. D.C.M. Second Lieutenant.
16th Army Auxiliary Horse Transport Company, Army Service Corps.
Died 29 July 1918. Aged 39.
Born Dunoon, Argyllshire, Scotland.
Son of John and Helen Brass.
Husband of Clara C. Brass of 4, Mable Terrace, Richborough Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Tréport, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref: V. L. 8A.
Formerly Sergeant, 8011, 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers. At the time of the 1881 census, the Brass family resided at 23, Burnside, Cupar, Fife, Scotland. Head of the house was 35 year old Cupar, Fife native John Brass
(senior) who was employed as a tailor. John (senior) had served in the Second Boer War (1899-1902) in the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He re-enlisted in the army in October 1914, at which time he stated that he was an Evangelist. Following his service within the United Kingdom, John was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on 10 July 1915. Whilst serving as a (Temporary) Company Sergeant Major in the 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, John was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, details of which were published in The London Gazette on 21 June 1916, and the citation for which reads: “For consistent good work throughout.” After being recommended for a commission by his superiors, John was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps in December 1917. On the day that he died, John had been riding a motorcycle when he collided with an Army Service Corps. He was taken to one of the military hospitals at Le Tréport, Seine-Maritime, France, where he succumbed to his injuries whilst receiving treatment later the same day.

CHAMPS, BERTIE. Private, 463.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Born St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Ambrose and Sarah Elizabeth Champs of 6, Belmont Terrace, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Formerly of 1, Alpha Cottages, High Street, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave Ref: II. N. 27.
Bertie was amongst the 4 other ranks serving in the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), who were killed in action on 7 April 1916. For additional Champs family census details please see the brief commemoration of Bertie’s brother, Joseph Ambrose Champs who is the next casualty below.

CHAMPS, JOSEPH AMBROSE. Serjeant, 58489.
23rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery.
Died 18 July 1916.
Born St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Ambrose and Sarah Champs of 6, Belmont Terrace, Belmont Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Formerly of 1, Alpha Cottages, High Street, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: VIII. G. 5.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Champs family resided at The Row, St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 50 year old Sarre, Kent native Ambrose Champs, who was employed as a Roadman on District Roads. Joseph was recorded as being 10 years old by the census enumerator, which would be indicative of him having been about 25 years old when he lost his life. Joseph enlisted in the army as a regular soldier on 26 August 1909, and joined the Royal Field Artillery at Woolwich, Kent.
of his enlistment, Joseph stated that he was 18 years and 9 months old, and employed as a Labourer. On 25 February 1901, Joseph obtained his 3rd class Army Education Certificate, and his 2nd class on 4 December 1911. On 14 November 1911 Joseph was promoted to Bombadier, and was appointed an Acting Serjeant on 10 February 1915, before being promoted to a Serjeant on 13 August 1915. Having served for a total of 5 years and 2 days in the United Kingdom, Joseph was posted to France on 28 August 1914. Following his death on the first day of the ‘Battle of the Somme 1916,’ Joseph was buried at Montauban Road Cemetery, Carnoy, Somme, France, which contained the graves of 25 soldiers most of which were members of the 18th (Eastern) Division who died on 1 July 1916. On 10 October 1923, Joseph was amongst the casualties that were re-interred at Dantzig Alley British Cemetery at Mametz.

COLEMAN, PHILLIP WALTER. Lance Corporal, G/3062. 
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). 
Died 3 May 1917. Aged 41. 
Born and resided Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of the late Charles and Emily Coleman. 
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2. 
As a young man, Phillip had at one time been employed by the Osbourn family at Hundred Farm, Westgate-on-Sea. At the action fought at Monchy-le-Preux, Pas de Calais on 3 May 1917 during the ‘Third Battle of the Scarpe’, the 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) suffered at least 376 casualties amongst its officers and other ranks, they being a combination of killed, wounded and missing. The battalion having spent the preceding night waiting in shell holes for zero hour which had been set for 0345 hours, with "A" Company on the right flank, "B" Company on the left, with "C" Company supporting, and the officers and men of "D" Company behind those of "B" Company the battalion formed up ready to take part in the days attack. Exactly at the agreed time the British artillery commenced firing as a prelude too, and in support of the battalion, who as with the gunners also left their start area on time as ordered and set off into total darkness, as the battalion pressed on every effort was made to keep communication with them, Second Lieutenant McAuley, the battalion signaling officer along with two of the battalion signalers and two orderlies, went forward to establish an advanced H.Q. in what was known as Devil's Trench, but he later returned at 0430 hours and reported that no communication had been possible. A fairly early indication however that all was apparently going well, was when two German prisoners were sent back down the line from the battalion, but at that time nothing definite could be ascertained, even later on when daylight came, gunfire and snipers made it hard to get any news of how matters were proceeding; but at dusk it was discovered that the battalion had already suffered a substantial number of casualties, and that despite the sacrifices being made by the battalion of all ranks the line in their front was practically as before. With the growing concern of the continuous loss of officers at the time which was so serious that Second Lieutenant’s Seago and Sowter were sent for from the
detail camp and, arriving about 2200 hours, and very quickly were sent forward to reorganize the remnants of the devastated battalion. Part of the objective allotted the battalion on the morning of 3 May 1917 had been a spot called Keeling Copse, and it was found after the battalion had taken stock of its significant losses, that Second Lieutenant’s P. A. Cockeram and Norman O.F. Gunther with about 40 men and a Lewis gun had actually got there, only to then realize that they were completely isolated with the enemy infantry having reformed its line behind them, and both sides being their original trenches, the result being that three lines of Germans intervened between this handful of men and their comrades, nothing daunted however, they held their own all day during which time they accounted for many of the enemy soldierly surrounding them. Under the cover of darkness when night fell, and by then having expended every cartridge and bomb they possessed, they gallantly fought their way back again, breaking through one line after another, until at last the two subalterns and thirteen of the men with them were able to report themselves to battalion Head Quarters. The casualties in this terrible action were Second Lieutenant’s John H. Dinsmore and Harold V. Hardey-Mason killed, and Captain John B Kitchin died of wounds; Captain McDermott and Second Lieutenant’s Williams and H.G. Nesbitt wounded; Second Lieutenant’s Charles Warington, Athol Kirkpatrick, H.W. Evans and R.L.F. Forster, Lieutenant’s K.L. James, Grant, King and Wills posted as missing of whom the first five were found to have been killed; 25 other ranks were also killed, plus 128 wounded and in addition to which 207 were initially reported as being missing, but ultimately many were later found to have lost their lives during and resulting from the attack of 2 and 3 May 1917. About 0200 hours on 4 May the remnant was relieved and got back, on the following day what remained of the battalion was reorganized into two companies each of which consisted of only two platoons, No 1 Company had Second Lieutenant Stevens in command, with Second Lieutenant’s Sowter, Seago and Sankey under him; No 2 Company was commanded by Captain Carter, assisted by the intrepid Second Lieutenant’s Gunther and Cockeram. Following a later debriefing meeting to see if lessons could be learned from the attack of 3/4 May by the battalion a few things became obvious, the main points raised being that it was a pity that “the ground was quite unknown to the battalion which had not held the same position previously, and that the orders to attack came so late that there was no time for systematic reconnaissance,” also that the early part of the engagement had been undertaken in the dark. Those surviving members of the battalion who were not in the hands of the medical teams left Monchy-le-Preux and were then rested in nearby Arras for a mere 48 hours and then underwent a further ten days in the trenches before being relieved on 17 May when the battalion moved to Duisans. Both Second Lieutenant’s Cockeram and Gunther received the Military Cross for their gallant conduct on 3/4 May 1917, but it is sad to have to add that Norman Gunther, who was an attached officer of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry was killed shortly afterwards. Phillip Coleman is numbered amongst the 396 members of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) who have no known grave, that are commemorated on the Arras Memorial, a not insignificant number of those casualties also sadly lost their lives on the same day as Phillip.
MANBY-COLEGRAVE, GERARD THOMAS. Lieutenant.
Army Service Corps.
Attached to the 221st Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.
Born London 1886.
Son of the late Thomas Manby-Colegrave and of the late Alice Emily M. Manby-
Colegrave (née Worsley) of Cann Hall, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, and of Little
Ellingham, Norfolk.
Husband of Hilda Mary Atherton-Brown (formerly Manby-Colegrave), (née
Thunder) of Bourton Hill House, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.
Buried Haute-Avesnes British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: C. 23.

Gerard’s birth was registered in the St. George Hanover Square, London,
Registration District during the second quarter of 1886. He was only 12 years of
age when his late father Thomas Manby-Colegrave died at 24, Onslow Square,
South Kensington, London on 19 May 1898, which is where Gerard sometimes
resided when he had used it as his town house in later life. Gerard’s late mother
also died at the same address on 25 August 1909, aged 57. He married Miss
Hilda Mary Thunder in the East Preston, Sussex, Registration District during the
fourth quarter of 1907. Gerard had formerly served as a Lieutenant in the 2/1st
Kent Cyclist Battalion, from which he resigned his commission on 14 August
1915. Gerard had also served in the 3/1st South Eastern Mounted Brigade Field
Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. He was posted to France on 12 January
1917, with the Army Service Corps attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery. At
the time of his death, Gerard resided at “West Bay Lodge,” Sea Road, Westgate-
on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Gerard was also the owner of Cann Hall, Clacton-
on-Sea, Essex, and was the Lord of the Manor of Little Ellingham, Attleborough,
Norfolk. Gerard’s late grandfather; John William Manby changed the family
surname from Manby to Manby-Colegrave in 1868. Gerard had one daughter
and one son, the latter being Nuneaton, Warwickshire native Gerard Francis
Anthony “Jock” Manby-Colegrave (1912-1963), who during the 1930’s was a
very successful racing car driver. The surname of Gerard’s family was originally
Manby, and it was later changed to Manby-Colegrave in the early 1800’s by
Major William Manby of Lincoln, Lincolnshire, who took his grandmother’s
surname of Colegrave, and then he simply combined both of the surnames.

COZENS-BROOKE, JOHN GILBERT SOMERSET. Lieutenant.
3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, attached to the 1st Battalion,
Royal Scots Fusiliers.
Born Eton, Buckinghamshire 1893.
Only son of Ernest Brooke Cozens-Brooke and Isobel Emily Florence Cozens-
Brooke (née Clayton) of 6, Collingham Road, South Kensington, London, and of
St. Mildred’s Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 19.
John was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers on 1 April 1912, and had been promoted to Lieutenant on 15 August 1914. Prior to his death, John had also served (attached) with Princess Victoria’s (Royal Irish Fusiliers. On the day that John fell, the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers had moved from Bas Pommereau Farm where had had arrived the day before, and had attacked strong German positions at the Château south of Herlies on the French-Belgian border. “A” Company led the attack, with “B” Company on the left, and they came under heavy fire on three sides, mainly from well placed enemy machine-gun emplacements which brought the attack to a halt, at which time John was mortally wounded about 500 yards from the objective. “C” Company went forward at 1715 hours and the attack resumed, but the assault on the enemy was brought to a halt when the battalion was only 60 yards from the entrenched Germans.

DADDS, THOMAS WILLIAM. Private, G/13653. 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 3 May 1917. Aged 31. Born Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of Thomas Dadds and Elizabeth Mary Dadds of Deerson Lane, Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Husband of Grace Mary Dadds (née Hooper) of 14, Margravine Villas, Victoria Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2. Formerly Private, 5056, 4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Dadds family resided at Preston Lane, Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent. Head of the house was 48 year old Preston-next-Wingham, Canterbury, Kent native Thomas Dadds (senior), who was employed as an Ordinary Agricultural Labourer, and was also employed as the Sexton of the parish at St. Mildred’s parish church Preston-next-Wingham, The then 15 year old Thomas (junior) was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Bricklayers Labourer. Thomas married Miss Grace Mary Hooper at St. Paul’s Church, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent on Thursday 18 January 1912. When he enlisted in the army ‘For the Duration of the War,’ on Sunday 28 May 1916, Thomas stated that he was 31 years and 130 days old and that he was employed as a Prudential Superintendent, residing at 14, Margravine Villas, Victoria Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, which was also the residence of his wife who he named as being his next of kin. When Thomas was mobilized on Thursday 27 July 1916, he was initially posted to serve in the 3/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and had the regimental number 5056. His regimental number was later changed to G/13653, when he was transferred to serve as a member of the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on Saturday 30 December 1916. For additional brief details about Thomas’s battalion on the day that he fell, please also see the earlier commemoration in rememberance of Birchington native and resident, Lance Corporal, Phillip Walter Coleman, briefly commemorated on pages 7 & 8.
DENNY, DONALD WILLIAM. Private G/14431, 
"Y" Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), attached to the 9th (Service) Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. 
Died 16 September 1916. Aged 22. 
Born Deal, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Fakenham, Norfolk. 
Only son of Thomas William Denny and Jane Agnes Denny (née Spark) of 32, Holly Walk, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. 
Brother of Dorothy Helen Sinclair Denny. 
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 6, and on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, civic war memorial. 
Donald was posted to the Balkan war theatre on 15 December 1915. Following his death, he was initially posted as 'Missing' (presumed dead), but later the Army Council made the decision that for Official Purposes, it was assumed that Donald had died on or since 16 September 1916. At the time of his death, Donald's home address was at Fakenham, Norfolk, it having previously been at Collingwood Terrace, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Donald's sister Dorothy (1908-1992) who was a native of Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent, married Charles Sydney How in Surrey in 1938. Donald left all of his worldly goods to his father who was his next of kin, and employed as a Bank Clerk.

DUNN, GEORGE AUGUSTUS. Private, G/5743. 
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). 
Died 6 December 1915. Aged 27. 
Son of Frederick and Mary Toule Dunn of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. 
Buried Le Tréport Military Cemetery, Seine-Maritime, France. 
Plot 1. Row M. Grave 7B. 
Also commemorated on the Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, Great War Roll of Honour. 
At the time of the 1891 census, the Dunn family resided at 19, Bath Road, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. Head of the house was George's father 53 year old Wolverhampton native Frederick Dunn, who was a Surgeon and Registered General Practitioner. George, then aged 3 was one of the nine Dunn children who were recorded by the census enumerator as being at home on the night of the census. George enlisted in the army 'For the duration of the War' on Wednesday 10 February 1915. When he enlisted, George stated that he was 27 years and 1 month old, and that he was a Farmer residing at 11, Cedric Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Following his basic training and service in the United Kingdom, George was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on Tuesday 1 June 1915. Whilst serving in France George was taken ill, and was eventually taken for treatment at one of the military hospitals which were located at Le Tréport, Seine-Maritime, France, where he died. During the Great War, the coastal town of Le Tréport was an important hospital centre and at various times contained a number of large military hospitals and convalescence centres.
DYKE, CYRIL JOHN. Second Lieutenant.  
24th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (The Queen's), attached to the 2nd/22nd (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (The Queen's).  
Died 7 November 1917.  
Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Son of Alfred and Emily Dyke of "Hazelhurst," Victoria Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel. Grave Ref: J. 50.  
Formerly Private, 5367, 3/28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Artists Rifles). At the time of the 1901 census, the Dyke family resided at "Westholme," Thanet Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 43 year old Banbury, Oxfordshire native Alfred Dyke, who was a Building Contactor and an employer. When Cyril enlisted in the army in November 1915, he stated that he was employed as a Gas Engineers Assistant, residing with his parents at Richmond House, Street Court Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. He was attested to serve as a potential officer in the 3/28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Artists Rifles). In July 1916, Cyril was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the 24th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (The Queen's). The 3/28th County of London Battalion (Artists' Rifles), to which Cyril was originally attested was formed in September 1914. In November 1915 when Cyril had joined, it took the place of the 2/28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Artists Rifles), and was so renumbered. By March 1916 it was named the No.15 Officer Training Battalion at Hare Hall, Romford, Essex, were it remained there for the duration of the war. During the Great War years, a total of 10,256 officers were commissioned after training with the Artists' Rifles. They went to the five regiments of Foot Guards, every infantry regiment and to many of the corps of the British army. The Royal Artillery alone had 953 officers, and the London Regiment had a total of 738 of its officers that were commissioned from the Artists' Rifles, one of whom was Cyril Dyke.

EEDE, ALFRED J. Private, G/67594.  
6th (Service) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).  
Died 11 August 1918.  
Born Cranleigh, Surrey. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Son of William and Emma Eede (née Edwards).  
Husband of Sarah Jane Eede (née Lodge).  
Alfred's marriage to Sarah Jane Lodge was registered in the Hambledon, Surrey, Registration District during the second quarter of 1894. At the time of the 1901 census, the then 33 year old Alfred was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Head of the house at Rose Cottage, Cranleigh, Surrey, and as being employed as a Bricklayer. His birth was registered in late 1867 in the same area as his marriage, which would be indicative of Alfred as being 50 years old at the time of his death, it being particularly old for an other rank serving at the front.
EVANS, ALFRED DEAN. Private, G/25001.
3rd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).
Born Presteign, Radnorshire, Wales. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Edwin Alfred Evans and Emily Evans, of 11, De Roos Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 15
Formerly Private, T/242192, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Evans family resided at The Old Weir, Kenchester, Hereford, Herefordshire. Head of the house was 48 year old Kington, Herefordshire native Edwin Alfred Evans, who was a Farmer and an employer. The 3rd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), had a not insignificant number of its soldiers who like Alfred were former members of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). In addition to that important connection with Kent, prior to leaving Canterbury for Southampton on 30 May 1917, the battalion had at various times been stationed at Royal Tunbridge Wells, Wilderness Park, Sevenoaks, Westbere near Canterbury, the divisional musketry camp at Sandwich, and on coastal defence duties at Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet. Alfred’s battalion travelled from Canterbury on two trains to Southampton, where the two parties arrived at 0330 hours and 0520 hours on the morning of 31 May 1917. After waiting in sheds at the port during the day, in company with the 3rd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), the battalion eventually sailed for France for service with the British Expeditionary Force from Southampton, onboard the hired Liverpool & North Wales Steamship Company 2205 ton paddle steamer La Marguerite, later the same evening. At the time of her being in use as a troop transporter, La Marguerite was back in her former home waters having been used as a cross channel steamer until 1904. Commanding the battalion when it crossed to France was 36 year old Lieutenant-Colonel Urten Lamont Hooke, who commanded 32 officers and 973 other ranks. Lieutenant-Colonel Hooke of Croydon, Surrey was one of the battalions early casualties when he fell on 21 June 1917; he is at rest at Level Crossing Cemetery, Fampoux, Arras, Pas de Calais. On a dark, damp morning, battalions of the British Second Army assaulted enemy positions located on the Broodseinde-Becelaere Ridge, during the ‘Battle of Broodseinde’ which was ultimately the last of the last successful attack of the overall ‘Battle of Passchendaele. At 0300 hours Alfred’s battalion began to assemble for the attack, which commenced at 0600 hours with an artillery barrage that came down 150 yards of the brigade line. During the attack the battalion suffered casualties when faced with barbed wire entanglements, and subjected to heavy machine gun fire from the right. Getting across the Polygon Beek and its adjoining marshes also proved difficult, during the course of which time was lost and men got too far behind the supporting barrage. Juniper trench was reached in darkness, and as the battalion had approached it several enemy soldiers appeared, unfortunately it was not possible to ascertain if they were fighting or
surrendering, and were all killed. An concrete enemy post was dealt with by a bombing party that was led by Lieutenant Frost. On Judge Trench then being taken, it was quickly consolidated, and communication with the 1st Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment was then made. Alfred was numbered amongst the 81 other ranks that were serving in the 3rd/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) who died on 4 October 1917, which was the first major engagement with the enemy that it fought in during the Great War.

WELD-FORESTER, The Honourable ARTHUR ORLANDO WOLSTAN. M.V.O. Major.
King's Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards.
Died 1 November 1914. Aged 37.
Born 13 July 1877.
Fifth son of Cecil Theodore Weld Forester, the 5th Baron Forester, M.P., C.C., D.L., J.P. and Baroness Emma Georgina Forester (née Dixie), of Willey Park, Broseley, Shropshire, and of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried St. John the Divine Churchyard, Willey, Shropshire.
Grave Ref: Near South-East corner of Church.
Also commemorated on a memorial plaque which was erected by Arthur’s family, in the parish church of St. John the Divine Churchyard, Willey, Shropshire, and Arthur’s is the first name on a war memorial which is located in the grounds of the Willey Park Estate, Broseley, Shropshire, which commemorates the Great War fallen of the nearby villages of Barrow and Willey.
The latter memorial referred to above, was paid for by Arthur’s eldest brother Lieutenant-Colonel Weld Forester, the 6th Baron Forester (1867-1932). Arthur was educated at Harrow School, and had been gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards from the 3rd Shropshire Light Infantry (Militia) on 1 December 1897. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 9 October 1899 and to a Captain on 21 January 1905, and to the rank of Major on 3 September 1912. Arthur served in the Second Boer War, and had received the Queen’s South Africa Medal with three clasps, and the Kings South Africa Medal with both of the date clasps. He was Aide-de-Camp to Lord Hardinge the Viceroy of India, from 23 November 1910 to 5 May 1912, and was invested as a Member of the Royal Victorian Order. Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (later Colonel) Maxwell Earle D.S.O., the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards embarked on the SS
Armenian and SS Turcoman at Southampton on 4 October 1914, and landed sailed for the Belgium port of Zeebrugge the following day, and arrived on 7 October. After arriving on the Western Front, like all of the other units of the British Expeditionary Force engaged in the fighting, of operational necessity the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards made a number of locational moves. After moving to bivouacs at Sanctuary Wood near Hooge on 27 October, the following day the battalion moved forward to hold the line at Kruiseecke Crossroads on the Menin Road. On 29 October the battalion came under heavy fire from British artillery falling short during the early hours of the morning. Later the same day the enemy launched a successful attack on the battalion, which resulted in the battalion being pushed back to the support line. Although it is recorded that Arthur was wounded on 29 October 1914, and succumbed to his wounds at the King Edward VII Hospital, London on 1 November 1914, the transcriber has thus far been unable to ascertain if his wounds were inflicted by the Germans, or as the result of the barrage of shells which were fired by the British artillery that had fallen short. Arthur was Mentioned in Despatches, which was published on page 1658 of The London Gazette which was dated 17 February 1915.

FRIGHT, ALFRED WALTER. Private, L/9142. 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died 29 September 1915. Aged 26. Born Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Westbrook, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of Richard Fright of 16, Waverley Road, Westbrook, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Commemorate on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 16. At the time of the 1901 census, the Fright family resided at Percy Villas, Stretee Court Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 50 year old St. Johns, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Richard Fright, who was employed as a Foreman at a Timber Yard. Alfred was serving in the army as a regular soldier, and his regimental number is indicative of him having enlisted in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in 1909. He was posted to France for service with the British Expeditionary Force on 13 May 1915. From 28 September to 1 October 1915, Alfred’s battalion was in action during the ‘Battle of Loos 1915.’ The battalion had been tasked with attacking enemy positions named the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Fosse 8, and The Dump, all of which proved to be costly. The Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), Lieutenant-Colonel Claude A. Worthington was numbered amongst the 6 officers who died, as did at least 57 other ranks, but of the133 other ranks who were initially posted as ‘Missing’ during the four day actions, it is known that a significant number of them were subsequently found to have died. In addition to the fatalities suffered by the battalion. At least 10 officers and 168 other ranks were wounded. Several other members of Alfred’s battalion were taken prisoner during the ‘Battle of Loos 1915.’ A not insignificant number of those who were taken prisoner, later died of their wounds whilst prisoners of war. Alfred was a brother of Edgar Fright, who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below.
FRIGHT, EDGAR NORMAN. Signalman, J/6739.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Formidable.
Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent 16 October 1893.
Son of Richard Fright of 16, Waverley Road, Westbrook, Margate, Kent, and the late Sarah Fright (née Knott).
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Kent. Panel 10, as shown above, and on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial, also on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.
Edgar enlisted in the Royal Navy as a Boy, prior to which he was employed as a Telegraph Messenger by the General Post Office. He perished when H.M.S. Formidable, which was a 15,000 ton pre-Dreadnought battleship, built in 1898, was torpedoed and sunk in English Channel 30 miles to the south of Lyme Regis, Dorset, by the German submarine U-24. A total of 547 officers and ratings perished when H.M.S. Formidable was sunk by the U-24, which at the time was commanded by 32 year old Kapitänleutnant, Rudolf ‘Rudi’ Schneider. On 13 October 1917, during a very stormy weather, Rudolf Schneider was lost overboard from the conning tower of U-87, which he had commanded from 26 February 1917, and although one of his crew managed to bring him back onboard the submarine, it was too late. He was subsequently buried in the North Sea between the Shetland Isles and Norway. Lieutenant Edmund William Alfred Humphrey R.N.R. also lost his life when H.M.S. Formidable was sunk, and he is another Westgate-on-Sea casualty who is commemorated on the British Legion Memorial. For additional brief family details as extracted from the 1901 census, please also see the commemoration in rememberance of Edgar’s brother Alfred, who is commemorated above.

GILBERT, JOHN HUMPHREY. Private, 42443.
7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.
Died Saturday 2 November 1918. Aged 21.
Born Walthamstow, Essex. Enlisted Ashford, Kent. Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Archibald Gilbert and Harriet Ann Gilbert (née Finnis) of "Woodbury," Streete Court Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece. Grave Ref: 718.
Formerly Private, 3120, Royal Army Medical Corps. At the time of the 1901 census, the Gilbert family resided at 21, Evelyn Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19. Head of the house was 31 year old Eastleigh, Hampshire native Archibald Gilbert, who was employed as a Commercial Clerk. Mikra British Cemetery where John is at rest was opened in April 1917, remaining in use until 1920. The cemetery was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from a number of burial grounds in the area. As with many other cemeteries around the world, some of the graves at Mikra British Cemetery are those of victims of the world-wide Influenza pandemic of late 1918 and early 1919, and as
John died of an illness, he was possibly one of the victims of the pandemic. On the day that John died of his illness, the 7th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment was at Mustapha Pasha, Greece. The highlight of the day as shown in the battalion war diary entry for Saturday 2 November 1918 was a football match which was played by the battalion against the 11th (Service) Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment, which John’s battalion lost 1-0.

HARROW, ROY WILLIAM THOMAS. Second Lieutenant.
3rd Training Depot Station, Royal Air Force.
Born Sheffield, Yorkshire.
Son of William and Annie Harrow.
Husband of Georgina Harrow (née Graham) of 3, Victoria Road, Oakworth, Keighley, Yorkshire.
Buried St. Mildred's Cemetery, Tenterden, Kent. Grave 245.
Also commemorated on the Tenterden, Kent civic war memorial, and in the parish church of St. Mildred’s, Tenterden, Kent.
Formerly Private, York and Lancaster Regiment. At the time of the 1901 census, the Harrow family resided at 79, Endcliffe Vale Road, Nether Hallam, Yorkshire. Head of the house was 40 year old Adwell, Thame, Oxfordshire native William Harrow, who was an Own Account Nurseryman and Florist employing staff. Roy’s mother was a native of Acol, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and is possibly the reason why Roy is commemorated at Westgate-on-Sea. Roy was educated at the King Edward VII School, Glossop Road, Sheffield. At the time of enlisting for military service, Roy was employed as a Horticulturist at Endcliffe Hall Nurseries, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, Yorkshire. He married Miss Georgina Graham in the Birmingham, Warwickshire, Registration District during the last quarter of 1917. He was serving as Corporal in the York and Lancaster Regiment when he was accepted for pilot training, and was serving as a Cadet in the Royal Flying Corps, when he was commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps on 27 January 1918. When the 1918 Absent Voters List was compiled, Roy’s home address was recorded as being at Westfields, Tenterden, Kent. Roy lost his life in a flying accident which occurred at Lopcombe Corner, Stockbridge, Hampshire, on Sunday 16 June 1918 whilst flying a Sopwith Camel, at which time he was serving with 3rd Training Depot Station, Royal Air Force. Lopcombe Corner, Stockbridge, Hampshire where Roy lost his life was a Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force airfield which was in use during 1918 and 1919. In 1916 Endcliffe Hall where Roy had worked prior to his army service and it is the largest private residence ever to have been built in Sheffield. It was sold to the Territorial Army, and became the headquarters of the Hallamshire Battalion. Endcliffe Hall remained the Headquarters of the Hallamshire Battalion until 1968 when the battalion was disbanded. Today Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S10 3EU, and its grounds which Roy would have known so well, are still owned by the British military, as it is the base of the Sheffield detachments of the 4th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, Territorial Army, and of the 212 (Yorkshire) Field Hospital, (Volunteers).
HEATON, IVON. Captain.
7th (Service) Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Born Warwickshire 28 September 1896.
Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Doctor Charles James Heaton, M.D., and Mary Florence Heaton (née Barnes) of “Verulam,” Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Tréport, Seine-Maritime, France.
Grave Ref: V. B. 6B.
Ivon’s birth was registered in the Aston, Warwickshire, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1896. He was baptised at the parish church of St. Matthew, West Kensington, London, on 2 September 1906, at which time his parents resided at “Ellerslie,” Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Ivon was a former pupil of Tonbridge School, Kent, where he had been a member of Manor House from 1910 to 1914. Having passed the London Matriculation in 1914, Ivon went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge, with the intention of follow in his fathers’ footsteps and studying to become a Doctor. At Cambridge he was a Lance Corporal in the Officers Training Corps, but gave up his medical studies to enlist in the British army. After successfully passing a commissioning board, Ivon was granted a temporary (wartime) commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on 5 November 1914, and was posted to France with the regiment on 26 July 1915. At the village of Montauban on Saturday 1 July 1916 during the first day of the ‘Battle of the Somme,’ Ivon had a miraculous escape when he was buried by an exploding shell, although he was seriously wounded, most of the other soldiers who were buried by the explosion lost their lives. Following his miraculous escape at Montauban Ivon was evacuated back to England for treatment; his condition was so serious, that when he arrived at the London Hospital a week after being injured, he was still not fully conscious. Following his discharge from hospital, Ivon undertook light duties at Rochester, Kent, which allowed him time to visit his old school. Due to the severity of his wounding, it was not until the spring of 1917 that he was allowed to rejoin his battalion on the Western Front. On another occasion following his return to the front, whilst taking refuge in a shell hole at Cherisy, he
wrote the verses of “A Birds Song under Shell Fire,” which was published in “The Tonbridgian” in December 1917. Ivon died of wounds that he had received on 12 October 1917 during the capture of Poelcappelle, Belgium; when he had suffered a severe wound to his right arm whilst he was pushing forward with his scouts. Despite being in excruciating pain, he had refused to give in and carried on until physically unable to do any more, which was probably as the direct result of having lost a lot of blood. Ivon was fairly near to the dressing station that he was attempting to reach, when he fell victim to a gas shell, which had the knock on effect of slowing his progress considerably, which in turn doubtless reduced his chances of surviving dramatically. As an Intelligence Officer and scout trainer, Ivon was noted as having done excellent work, and the month after his demise he was Mentioned in Despatches. Following his death, his parents received many letters of condolence, most of which were from his brother officers. Ivon’s father who was born at Twickenham, Middlesex in 1867, was a radiologist and a well-remembered pioneer in radiology and physical medicine, who had practiced at Westgate-on-Sea for many years, had also served during the Great War as a Captain, having been given a temporary (wartime) commission as an officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps from June 1916. He had been posted to France on 21 June 1917 where he then served for six months, and then later served in Egypt and Palestine for eighteen months. In later years the Heaton family resided at 1 Collingwood Terrace, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.


At the time of the 1901 census, the Heyburn family resided at 13, Richborough Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 44 year old William J. Heyburn, who was born in Malta and was employed as a Labourer. Walter enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Toronto, Ontario, Canada on 12 November 1914. At the time of his enlistment, Walter stated that he was 26 years old, and that he had previously served in the Lincolnshire Regiment in England as a member of the Territorial Force, and that he was born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent on 31 October 1887. Walter also stated that he was employed as a Gardener, and named his mother Mrs. Martha Heyburn; of 6, Ethelbert Terrace, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent as his next of kin. For reasons which are unclear, Walter failed to mention at the time of his enlistment in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, that he also had other previous military service in England. Having successfully passed the requisite army medical examination the day before, Walter enlisted at Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, in the Territorial Force for 4 years on 19 March 1909. At the time of his enlistment,
Walter stated that he was 20 years and 5 months old, born in Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and that he was employed as a Groom by Sir William Marjoram of Margate, Kent. Walter also stated that he had previously served as a member of the 1st (Volunteer) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) which he had left at his own request. He was attested to serve as Gunner, 239, 3rd Home Counties (Cinque Ports Brigade), Royal Field Artillery (Territorial Force), in which he then served as a member of No.3 Battery until the termination of his engagement on 18 February 1913. During the time that he spent serving as a Territorial Force Gunner, in addition to carrying out his training in the Isle of Thanet, each year Walter also attended the Annual Training Camp, which was carried out at Lydd Army Camp, Romney Marsh, Kent. It was not many weeks after he had completed his service in the Territorial Force that Walter emigrated to Canada. He sailed from Liverpool, Lancashire on the 14,189 Canadian Pacific liner “Empress of Britain,” which arrived at the port of Quebec on 9 May 1913. As Walter had enlisted and was attested to serve in the 19th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment), Canadian Expeditionary Force on 12 November 1914, he would have been numbered amongst the early volunteers of his battalion, which was raised at Exhibition Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada on 6 November 1914. Prior to serving on the Western Front, Walter would have spent a brief part of his army service back in his native county of Kent. As part of the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division, the 19th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment) was stationed at West Sandling Camp, Hythe, Kent from 23 May 1915 until 14 September 1915 when it left for active service in France, where it then served continually until 1919. It would appear that it was during a period of leave to the United Kingdom, it was that Walter had married Miss Mable M. Munday, as their marriage was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1916. Walter was numbered amongst the 16 members of the 19th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment) who lost their lives on 16 August 1918.

HOARE, HARRY WALTER. Serjeant, L/8475.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 11 May 1915.
Born Lower Walmer, Kent. Enlisted Dover, Kent. Resided, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Eliza Jane Hoare (née Jordon) of 17, Richborough Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of the late Charles Hoare.
Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 12, as shown above.
At the time of the 1891 census, the Hoare family resided at 1, Florence Terrace, Lower Walmer, Kent. Head of the house was 30 year old Chartham, Canterbury, Kent native Charles Hoare, who was employed as a Bricklayer. Although only supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and should therefore be viewed as such, but as Harry was recorded by the enumerator as being only two years old when the 1901 census was taken, it
would seem likely that 1, Florence Terrace, Lower Walmer, Kent was where he had actually been born. Harry enlisted in the army at Dover Castle on 21 March 1907, to serve as a regular soldier for 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve. At the time of his enlistment, Harry stated that he was 18 years and 6 months old, and employed as a Labourer. Like many young men in times past who resided in the Deal/Walmer area of Kent, many of whom were following in their fathers footsteps, Harry had originally tried to enlist in the Royal Marines, but he had been medically rejected due to having defective teeth. When he enlisted in the army, harry requested that he served in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). After being attested, harry joined his chosen regiment at the Regimental Depot at Canterbury on 21 March 1907. He remained at the depot until being posted to the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 13 July 1907. On 16 September 1908, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion of the regiment, in which he was still serving when he was appointed to be an (unpaid) Lance Corporal on 31 March 1913. Harry was appointed a (unpaid) Lance Corporal on Christmas Day 1914. He was appointed to be an Acting Corporal on 17 February 1915 and to the rank of Corporal on 2 March 1915. Harry remained as a Corporal for only a short time, as he was quickly promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 3 May 1915, which was only a week before he fell. In addition to his service in the United Kingdom, prior to the Great War harry had served at Hong Kong, Singapore, and India, and whilst he was serving in Hong Kong he obtained his 3rd class Army Education Certificate on 2 June 1910. Whilst he was serving in India, in January 1914 Harry successfully applied to have his service with the Colours extended to 12 years. Two of Harry’s brothers also served in the armed forces during the Great War; Charles was a member of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and Frederick served in the 2nd Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. In addition to their service a younger brother Sidney served in the Tank Corps after the Great War, but in view of his age he probably never served during the war.

HORN, FREDERICK. Stoker 1st Class, K/21075. Royal Navy, H.M.S. Vanguard.
Died 9 July 1917. Aged 23.
Born Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent 11 February 1895.
Son of Frank Horn and Eleanor Horn of 1, Vincent Cottages, Nern, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 24, as shown above, and on the Acol and Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Horn family resided at Maxted Farm Cottages, Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 33 year old Acol, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Frank Horn, who was employed as a Farm Wagoner. H.M.S. Vanguard was a 19,560 ton St.Vincent class battleship that commanded by Lieutenant Commander Alan C.H. Duke R.N, 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.

HOWARD, ROBERT. Sergeant.
Dorsetshire Regiment.
Died 23 April 1915.
Former Isle of Thanet resident Gordon Brown, of whom our gratitude has already been mentioned, kindly provided the above information, which he in turn had gleaned from Robert’s commemoration in the parish church of St. Saviours, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. If after more in-depth research by www.kentfallen.com has been carried out, it then continues to show that as is now the situation, Robert has no official Commonwealth War Graves Commission, we will be submitting his case to the CWGC with the requisite documentation, to ensure that we get Robert commemorated as a casualty of the Great War. As Robert also has no ‘Soldiers Died in the Great War’ entry, it probably signifies that he had died within the United Kingdom. Unfortunately the useful research tool SDGW has thousands of casualties who died in Great Britain not recorded. Even more regrettable is the fact that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission still has quite literally thousands of Commonwealth casualties who died in or resultant of both world wars, who still have no official commemoration, and in many cases it would seem have no headstones marking their final resting place. Although many Second World War casualties fall into the non-commemorated category, the tragedy is more prevalent with those who died in or as the result of the Great War, who were ‘missed’ by the then Imperial War Graves Commission. Obviously the Imperial War Graves Commission was faced with vast numbers of Commonwealth casualties to commemorate after both world wars, but despite the passage of time ALL of those who died in the service of their respective nations, deserve at the very least to be properly honoured by way of being official commemorated.
HOWLAND, WILLIAM HENRY. Private, 57161.
9th (Service) Battalion, Welsh Regiment.
Born Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Resided Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of John L. Howland and Ellen Howland of Woodchurch Cottages, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Brother of Thomas Howland of 6, Pouces Cottages, Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Locre Hospice Cemetery, Loker, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Grave Ref: II. B. 19.
Formerly Private, G/9163, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the
in the army ‘For the Duration of the War,’ on 8 December 1915. When he enlisted, William stated that he was 21 years and 185 days old,
employed as a Farm Labourer, and residing at 6, Pouces Cottages, Minster, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. William was posted to France for service in the
British Expeditionary Force on 2 July 1916, and arrived at the Infantry Base Depot, Etaples, Pas de Calais, France the following day. At Etaples he was
numbered amongst over 200 other ranks of various regiments who were
transferred to the 9th (Service) Battalion, Welsh Regiment which he joined in the
field at Albert, Somme, France on 11 July 1916. The battalion had arrived at
Albert only two days prior to William, and was in reserve billets, with it numbers
depleted following its heroic fight at Contalmaison. By the time the 9th (Service)
Battalion, Welsh Regiment had withdrawn from Contalmaison, it was led from the
village by a Company Sergeant Major as all of its officers had become casualties.
On 5 April 1917, William received a shrapnel wound to his chest and was
evacuated to the 58th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps for treatment.
The 58th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. was attached to the 19th (Western) Division
to which the 9th (Service) Battalion, Welsh Regiment belonged. The day after
being wounded, William was transferred to the No.2 Casualty Clearing Station,
Royal Army Medical Corps at Bailleul. Following his treatment at the No.2 C.C.S.
William rejoined his battalion on 15 April 1917. On 20 September 1917, William’s
battalion and five others of 19th (Western) Division took part in ‘The Battle of
Menin Road Bridge 20-25 September 1917’ which took place to the east of
Ypres, Belgium, and was carried out as part of the overall ‘Battle of
Passchendaele.’ William died of wounds as the result of the action fought by his
battalion on 20 September 1917, and he was numbered amongst the 57 other
rank fatalities suffered by the battalion that day. It would seem almost certain that
the casualty roll would actually been significantly higher had it not been for the
heroic actions for a 30 year old Second Lieutenant serving in the 9th (Service)
Battalion, Cheshire Regiment which was on the right flank of William’s battalion
during the attack, when the 9th (Service) Battalion, Welsh Regiment had been
held up in front of Hessian Wood. When all the other officers of his company and
all but one in the leading company had become casualties, Second Lieutenant (later Major) Hugh Colvin of the 9th (Service) Battalion, Cheshire Regiment, took command of both companies and led them forward under heavy fire with great success. Second Lieutenant Colvin then realised the predicament which William’s battalion was in, which by then had already lost Major John Angel Gibbs D.S.O. of St. Maeburne, Penarth, Glamorgan, Wales, and several other officers. Hugh Colvin with a platoon of his men went to the assistance of William’s badly mauled battalion. He went with only two men to a dug-out, when he left the men on top, entered it alone and brought out 14 enemy prisoners. He then proceeded to clear other dug-outs, alone or with only one man, capturing machine-guns, killing some of the enemy and taking a large number of prisoners. For his valour on 20 September 1917, Hugh Colvin was subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross. Major Hugh Colvin V.C. died on 16 September 1962, aged 75, and is at rest at Carnmoney Cemetery, Newtownabbey, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Although purely speculation on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and should be viewed as such, but it is well documented that William’s battalion suffered a high number of officers and other rank casualties, who were either killed or wounded in front of Hessian Wood, and eventually in the wood on the day that he died, and as such it was probably at that location that William had been mortally wounded on Thursday 20 September 1917.

HUMPHREY, EDMUND WILLIAM ALFRED. Lieutenant. Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Formidable. Died 1 January 1915. Aged 34. Born Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent 11 July 1880. Son of Edmund Humphrey and Emily A. Humphrey (née Andrews) of Elm Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Husband of Annie McIlwrick Neilson Humphrey (née Sproul) of 28, Hampstead Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, Lancashire. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Kent. Panel 13, as shown above. At the time of the 1901 census, the Humphrey family resided at Boughton School House, Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Whitstable, Kent native Edmund Humphrey, who was employed as a School Master. Edmund’s mother, who was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 31 year old native of Everton, Bedfordshire, and a School Mistress. Edmund was educated at the Wreight School, Church Road, Faversham, Kent
which was later merged with the Faversham Grammar School. After leaving the Wreight School he went to the Margate, Kent, School of Art. On the completion of his education, Edmund joined the British Merchant Service in 1895, and was apprenticed to the Shaw, Saville & Albion Company which was formed in 1882. Shaw, Savill & Co retained five sailing ships which they operated as a separate company, and John Leslie & Partners ran their ships in with this fleet. It was on the old sailing ships which were retained by his employers that Edmund learned his skills as a seaman, and eventually gained his Masters ticket. After leaving the Shaw, Saville & Albion Company, Edmund joined the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, becoming a Second Officer. In 1898 he was nominated for a commission in the Royal Naval Reserve by Lord Goschen, who was the First Lord of the Admiralty from 1895 to 1905, and later Viscount Goschen of Hawkhurst in the County of Kent, who was a strong advocate for a significant force of Royal Navy battleships. Following the completion of the requisite paperwork and medical checks etcetera, Edmund was appointed a Midshipman in the Royal Naval Reserve, and received his annual training in H.M.S. President. On 10 April 1904, Edmund was promoted to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant, and was later promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Shortly before the commencement of the Great War, he was appointed to H.M.S. Formidable for a years training in a battleship. For additional brief details appertaining to the loss of H.M.S. Formidable, please see the commemoration of Edgar Norman Fright who is also commemorated on the Westgate-on-Sea British Legion Memorial. At the Presbyterian Church, Liverpool on 1 November 1908, Edmund married Miss Annie McIlwick Neilson Sproul, the daughter of James Neilson Sproul of Paisley, Scotland and Liverpool. One of the officers, who had been serving onboard H.M.S. Formidable at the time of the sinking and had survived, wrote a letter of condolence to Edmund’s wife, part of which says:-“Humphrey was popular with his shipmates and certain to have done his duty to the end.” At the time of his death Edmund’s wife was pregnant, and on 7 July 1915 she gave birth to their daughter Joan in the West Derby area of Liverpool.

HUNTLY, EDWARD KENNETH. Second Lieutenant. 6th (Service) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, attached to the Rifle Brigade. Died 20 September 1917. Aged 23. Born British Bechuanaland. Son of Mary Adelina Huntly of Grahamstown, South Africa, and of the late Gordon Merriman Huntly. Buried Poelkapelle British Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: XLIV. F. 2. Formerly of the 3rd Infantry Regiment, Prince Alfred's Guard (South Africa), and the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Edward’s branch of the Huntly family had several connections with South Africa stretching over many generations. In view that the bulk of the research undertaken by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, resulted in mainly South African data appertaining to Edward, it was initially quite difficult to
establish a tangible explanation why Edward was commemorated on the Westgate-on-Sea, British Legion War Memorial. It was probably due to the fact that he was a nephew of The Honourable Mrs. Amelia d'Esterre Hubbard (née Huntly), 1881-1930, who was the widow of The Honourable Arthur Gellibrand Hubbard 1848-1896. The Honourable Arthur Gellibrand Hubbard had held the office of Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the Cape Colony, South Africa, and had been the Accountant to the Basutoland Government. The Honourable Mrs. Amelia d'Esterre Hubbard resided at “Selwyn Lodge,” Thanet Road, Westgate-on-Sea, for a number of years. Kenneth was a grandson of the late Charles Hugh Grafton Fitzroy Beachcroft Huntly C.M.G., who was the Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate at Albany, South Africa. On 19 September 1856 the Port Elizabeth Volunteer Rifle Corps was formed in South Africa. In 1860 the regiment assumed unofficially the title Prince Alfred’s Guard, after H.R.H. Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, and on 11 July 1874 this name was officially sanctioned as Prince Alfred's Volunteer Guard. In 1913 the regiment was redesignated the 3rd Infantry Regiment, Prince Alfred's Guard of the Active Citizen Force of the Union Defence Force. Reference is made to the regiment because Edward had served in the regiment during the Great War. Many members of the Prince Alfred's Guard volunteered for active service in the Great War, but there was dissension in the ranks which had resulted after a long deployment on sentry duty in Cape Town. As a result the ‘upset’ the Prince Alfred's Guard contingent was disbanded, and most of its members saw active service during the war serving in other South African units, other members of the regiment (mainly officers) also served in British regiments until the cessation of hostilities. Edward had remained in Prince Alfred's Guard until after the German surrender in South-West Africa, two months after Windhoek the capital was captured on 12 May 1915. Edward was amongst other officers of his regiment who received commissions in British regiments. Brief reference was made above to The Honourable Arthur Gellibrand Hubbard, who was a son of the late John Gellibrand Hubbard, 1st Baron Addington P.C., who had several connections, either through his public life and family, with the former regiments that the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry was comprised of, and as such it would seem likely that is the primary reason why Edward had served in the regiment, after being granted a wartime commission as a British officer.

JONES, LEWIS JEREMY. Major. 9th Bhopal Infantry, Indian Army. Died 28 January 1914. Aged 34. Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Only son of Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis John Fillis Jones and Mrs. Louisa M. Jones. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 2A. Former Isle of Thanet resident Gordon Brown informs us that there is a memorial plaque in the parish church of St. Saviours, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, which was erected by the Jones family in rememberance of Lewis.
At the time of the 1891 census, the Jones family resided at St. Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 56 year old Portsmouth, Hampshire native Lewis J. F. Jones, who was a retired army Lieutenant-Colonel. Lewis's father was a veteran of the Crimean War, and a recipient of the Crimean War Medal with Inkerman clasp. During the Crimean War, the then Lieutenant Lewis John Fillis Jones had served in the 7th Foot (Royal Fusiliers), and was slightly wounded during the 'The Assault on the Quarries' on 7 June 1855, he was also severely wounded at the '1st Attack of the Redan,' on 18 June 1855. Following his service in the 7th Foot (Royal Fusiliers), he later served as an officer in 88th Regiment of Foot (Connaught Rangers). The 9th Bhopal Infantry in which Lewis served had the nickname 'The Bo-Peeps,' but they earned a well deserved reputation for toughness and resilience during the Great War. At the commencement of the Great War, Lewis's regiment was stationed at Fyzabad, India, and was comprised 2 companies of Sikhs, 2 of Rajputs, 2 of Brahmans and 2 of Muslims. In September 1914 they were sent to France as part of the Ferozepore Brigade, Lahore Division, Indian Army. In the late afternoon of a cold, wet late autumn day, the 9th Bhopal Infantry officers and other ranks went to the aid of the remnants of a British battalion near Neuve Chapelle. Still wearing cotton-drill uniforms, they had their first encounter with the enemy, trenches and barbed wire and they then remained, locked in battle for three days without food. Their known recorded losses during the action amounted to 11 officers and 262 other ranks. Following the above action during the 'Battle of Neuve Chapelle,' Lewis was reported as having been wounded and missing on Thursday 29 October 1914. Later the Army Council decided that for Official Purposes, it could be assumed that Lewis had died on or after Thursday 29 October 1914. Posthumous notification of Lewis's promotion to the rank of Major from Captain was published in The London Gazette on 14 July 1916.

KEMP, WILLIAM JAMES THOMAS. Lance Corporal, M2/050846. 594th Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps, attached to the 12th Siege Brigade, Ammunition Column, Royal Garrison Artillery. Died 13 July 1917. Aged 22. Born Putney, Surrey. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of Lewis James Kemp and Louisa Caroline Kemp of "Lausanne," Belmont Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave Ref: XV. B. 15A. Also commemorated on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, civic war memorial. At the time of the 1901 census, the Kemp family resided at 5, Carlton Stables, Putney, Surrey. Head of the house was 37 year old Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent native Lewis James Kemp, who was employed as a Coachman. William had been serving in the Army Service Corps when he was posted to France on Sunday 21 March 1915, for service with the British Expeditionary Force. William's medal card details show that he died of wounds. Unfortunately it has not been possible at the time of posting these updates, to ascertain which unit of the Army
Service Corps it was that William first served in France. He could not have been a member of the 594th Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps at the time of his posting, as that was formed in the United Kingdom on Monday 4 October 1915, and initially served as the Brigade Ammunition Column Motor Transport of the 34th Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery. After serving on the Western Front, the 594th Mechanical Transport Company, Army Service Corps was eventually disbanded on Friday 31 October 1919.

KENRICK, HERBERT WILLIAM MASCALL. Captain.
Reserve of Officers, attached to the 11th (Prince Albert’s Own) Hussars.
Died 24 March 1919. Aged 49.
Born Dublin, Ireland 22 May 1869.
Son of Mary Catherine Kenrick of “Lindsay Lodge,” Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of the late William Mascall Kenrick.
Husband of Helen Clara Campden Kenrick (née Little) of 15, Oakwood Court, Kensington, London, N14, and of “Ellingham,” Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Cologne Southern Cemetery, Köln (Cologne), Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Grave Ref: I. F. 12.

Herbert was initially educated at Ascham School, Meyrick Road, Christchurch, Bournemouth, and afterwards at Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey.
Herbert joined the 11th (Prince Albert’s Own) Hussars in 1891. He had served on the North West Frontier of India 1897-98, and was awarded the India General Service medal with North West Frontier clasp, and was also promoted to the rank of Captain in 1898. He later served on attachment with the Egyptian Army from 1900 to 1902. From 1904 he served as the Adjutant of the Lanarkshire Imperial Yeomanry, and retired from the army in 1908 and was placed on the Reserve of Officers. Prior to leaving the army, Herbert married Miss Helen Clara Campden Little, the only daughter of Frederick Campden Little and Helen Ruth Little (née Tredwell), at the parish church of St. Mary Abbotts, Kensington, London on Saturday 29 April 1905. Herbert’s Will details show his home address as Whitewell House, Cranbrook, Kent. He had previously resided at Perry Court, Chatham, Canterbury, Kent. Prior to moving to 15, Oakwood Court, Kensington, London, N14, with her daughter Ruth Betty Mary Kenrick, Herbert’s widow had resided at Wilton Villa, Camden Hill, London, which was the home of her father, Frederick Campden Little. Having been recalled for military service in the Great War, at the time of his death, Herbert was serving in Köln (Cologne) Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany with the Army of Occupation, as the Commander of the 4th Traffic Control Squadron, Mobile Police, when he died of Bronchial Pneumonia at 36 Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Service Corps, Cologne. The city Cologne was entered by Commonwealth forces on Friday 6 December 1918, and occupied under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles until January 1926. Herbert’s late father; William Mascall Kenrick of Broome, Fleet, Hampshire, who was a native of Bishopsbourne, Canterbury, Kent, died on Tuesday 23 May 1905 which was less than a full month after Herbert’s marriage to Helen Little.
KESBY, WILLIAM. Lance Corporal, L/7595.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 18 June 1915.
Born Tenterden, Kent. Enlisted Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent. Resided Westgate-
on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Zion Masters and Jenneta Harriet B. Masters (née Kesby) of Spotts Farm,
Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent.
Husband of Alice Maud Kesby (née Price) of Dennington House, Dennington
Park Road, West Hampstead, London NW6.
Buried Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Sint Jan, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen,
Belgium. Grave Ref: B. 2.
Also commemorated on the Smallhythe, Kent civic war memorial which is located
within the curtilage of the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Smallhythe Road,
Smallhythe, Kent.
William is commemorated on the Smallhythe civic war memorial by his birth
name, which was WILLIAM MASTERS. He later changed his name as shown
below, which is how he is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves
Commission etcetera. At the time of the 1901 census, the Masters family resided
at Spotts Farm, Smallhythe, Tenterden, Kent. Head of the house was 37 year old
Smallhythe native Zion Masters, who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer.
The then 13 year old William was recorded by the census enumerator as being
employed as an Office Boy. William enlisted in the army on Monday 10 August
1903, aged 18 years and 1 month, for a term of 3 years with the Colours and 9
years in the Reserve. At the time of his enlistment, William stated that he was
employed as a Labourer, and that he was a serving member of the 2nd
(Volunteer) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). When asked which
regiment he preferred to serve in as a regular soldier, he replied The Buffs (East
Kent Regiment). On Thursday 7 April 1904, approval was granted for William's
service to be extended for an additional 8 years. On Friday 16 June 1905 he was
appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal, and on Wednesday 23 August 1905 he
was appointed an (paid) Lance Corporal. With William’s consent, on Saturday 28
January 1911 he was transferred to the army reserve. Prior to being transferred
to the army reserve, in addition to serving in the United Kingdom, William had
also served in South Africa and Hong Kong. During his time in the army, William
had clearly been a very efficient and versatile soldier, having passed the Army
2nd and 3rd Class Certificates of Education, Passed Group 1, and qualified as a
Marksman, Signaller, Scout, and as a Stretcher Bearer. For eleven months he
had been employed as a Clerk in the 2nd Battalion of the regiment, and as an
Assistant School Teacher for two years prior to his discharge. Having earlier
officially applied to change his surname, on Saturday 14 March 1914 notification
was received by the Army Records Office that (Army Reservist) William had been
permitted to change his surname from MASTERS to KESBY, which was his
mothers’ maiden name. William’s army records showing his change of surname
were duly amended to that effect, and that his new identity would be effective
from Saturday 14 March 1914. At the time that William changed his surname, he
and his wife resided at 80, Byron Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. At the
commencement of the Great War, William was recalled for service in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and was posted to France on 7 September 1914. He was reported as having been killed in action on Friday 18 June 1915, and has the unfortunate distinction of being the sole fatality suffered by the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on that date. After the Great War, William’s widow Alice Maud Kesby and her child later resided at 16, Gas Street, Oldham, Lancashire.

**KING, WALLACE.** Air Mechanic 2nd Class, 82760. Royal Air Force.
Died 11 May 1918. Aged 34.
Born Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Frederick Alfred King of Iden Bungalow, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent, and of the late Jane Eliza King.
At the time of the 1901 census, the King family resided at 15, Westbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 41 year old Frittenden, Kent native Frederick Alfred King, who was employed as a Domestic Gardener. Aged 17, Wallace was also recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as a Domestic Gardener. Prior to moving to Benenden, Kent, the family had moved from 15, Westbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, and resided at Carlton Road, Westgate-on-Sea. Wallace’s father; Frederick King also had a Nursery at Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, which is where Wallace had probably worked for his father prior to enlisting for military service.

**LAVER, FRANCIS REYNELL.** Lieutenant.
4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment.
Died 9 April 1918.
Born Herne Bay, Kent 20 September 1897.
Brother of Charles Carew Laver of Little Bekkons, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.
Buried Strand Military Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.
Grave Ref: X. P. 6.
Francis was christened on 21 November 1897, and to commemorate the event was given a solid silver goblet, which was later sold on EBay on 19 February 2007. At the time of the 1901 census, Francis, his brother Charles, and their elder sister Muriel Laver resided at 35 Kensington Mansions, Warwick Road, Kensington, London, SW5. Francis was initially educated at the Selwyn House Preparatory School, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and afterwards at Marlborough College, Wiltshire. Francis is numbered amongst the 749 former staff members and pupils of Marlborough College who lost their lives in the Great War, and that are they are commemorated via The Memorial Hall, which is the College's principal memorial to them It was opened by H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught on 23 May 1925. Francis trained as a Pilot, and successfully obtained his Royal Aero Club Aviators’ Certificate at the Beatty School, Hendon, Middlesex on 24 March 1915, flying a Beatty Biplane. At the time of obtaining his
flying certificate, Francis's home address was at “Daka,” Ray Park Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, which was also the same address as shown on his Will. Charles Carew Laver who was Francis’s next of kin was a motor transport proprietor, and a fellow native of Herne Bay, Kent. Having obtained his requisite Royal Aero Club Aviators’ Certificate, Francis served as a Flight Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service as a Pilot.

Laughton, Harold Rupert. Corporal, 361.
South Eastern Mounted Brigade, Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, (Territorial Force).
Died 7 June 1916. Aged 22.
Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Mrs. H. R. Mitchell of Station Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire. Buried Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt. Grave Ref: F. 91.
Harold's birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1894. At the time of the 1901 census, Harold was residing at “Abbotsford,” Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was Harold’s uncle, 56 year old Kenardington, Ashford, Kent native Walter King, who was a Cab Proprietor working from his home address. Harold was posted to serve in the Balkan war theatre on 1 November 1915, at which time he was serving as a Private in the (Territorial Force), Royal Army Medical Corps. The South Eastern Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance, to which Harold had belonged, was based at the Drill hall, Victoria Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, with a Drill Station which was located at Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.

26th Battery, 7th Brigade, Australian Field Artillery.
Died 9 October 1917. Aged 33.
Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided and enlisted Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
Son of Edward John Luck and Caroline Luck (née Broughton) of 6, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Also commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 15.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Luck family resided at 6, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 44 year old Milton, Sittingbourne, Kent native Edward John Luck, who was employed as a Foreman Bricklayer. Edward (junior) was educated at St. Saviours School, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. When the 1901 census was taken he was aged 16, and employed as a Bricklayer. He arrived in Australia October 1911, and was employed as a Bricklayer. When he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, Edward stated that he had previous military experience whilst serving in the Rifle Volunteers at Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, England. Edward was a brother of the next two casualties briefly commemorated below. The Luck
brothers were the cousins of Private, 722, Frederick John Broughton, of the 10th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. who fell at Gallipoli on 27 April 1915. John was born at Faversham, Kent in 1889, and was the son of Frederick John Broughton (senior) and May Broughton. He is at rest at Beach Cemetery, Anzac, Gallipoli Turkey. Grave Ref: I. B. 14. Frederick is commemorated on the Australian National War Memorial. Panel 58.

LUCK, FRANK. Serjeant, G/469.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 7 October 1916.
Born, enlisted and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Edward John Luck and Caroline Luck (née Broughton) of 6, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 5 D.
For additional brief details of the events appertaining to Frank's battalion on the day that he died on Saturday 7 October 1916, please also the earlier brief commemoration in rememberance of Streatham, London native and resident George Balls on page 3. Following his death, Frank was officially posted as ‘Missing’ for several years.

LUCK, GEORGE. D.C.M. Lance Corporal, G/452.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 3 July 1916. Aged 27.
Born, enlisted and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Edward John Luck and Caroline Luck (née Broughton) of 6, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Millencourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: A. 21.
George enlisted in the army ‘For the Duration of the War’ on Friday 28 August 1914. When he enlisted, George stated that he was 23 years and 9 months old, and employed as a Motor Driver (Chauffeur). In response to the question on the enlistment form re if he had ever been rejected as being unfit for military service with the crown, George had answered “Only for Royal Flying Corps.” After being attested to serve in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), George joined the 6th (Service) Battalion of the regiment on Monday 31 August 1914. As George’s battalion rested in a reserve position in a field near the village of Millencourt on Saturday 1 July 1916, it being the first day of the ‘Battle of the Somme 1916,’ there was 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,” but later came the news that the assault on the village of Ovillers had failed. Resulting from the first days failure to capture Ovillers, the battalion moved at night to occupy trenches facing the village which was once again heavily bombarded by the British artillery. Early on the morning of 3 July the battalion were ready to attack the enemy troops holding Ovillers, and at approximately 0330 hours “A” Company moved forward in platoons, initially it moved forward with only few losses until reaching the German barbed wire
entanglements. Later waves of “A” Company and those of “C” Company had a high casualty rate during the attack, and those soldiers who did manage to actually get into the enemy trenches bombed the dugouts. The men who were being led with Second Lieutenant, Thomas C. Farmer carried out the bombing with noted accuracy and skill, which observers likened to a field-day work (training). Due to the high casualty rate which was 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 the 6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) a total of 274 casualties in dead, wounded and missing. George died of wounds at 1500 hours on Monday 3 July 1916, at the 36 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps during the ‘Battle of the Somme 1916,’ having suffered a shrapnel wound to his neck. He had been appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal on Thursday 18 March 1915 and to a (paid) Lance Corporal on Friday 16 April 1915. Notification of the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to George was published in The London Gazette dated Saturday 11 March 1916. The citation for his D.C.M. reads: “For gallant conduct in preparing bombs under heavy shell fire, and continued his work after the bomb store had been hit and blown away.” When Edward John Luck wrote to the Infantry Records Office at Staines on Thursday 12 February 1920, it was to tender his thanks for being sent the Memorial Scroll which was in recognition of George’s sacrifice. The letter also afforded Edward the opportunity to point out the Luck family had still not received any further about the fate of his son Serjeant Frank Luck, who had been serving in the same regiment as his brother George, and was still officially ‘Missing’ and it was as the direct result of the letter, that George was later accepted as dead.

MANDERS, H. F. As he is commemorated on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, British Legion war memorial, appears to be the following local casualty, but who has been commemorated on it with his surname misspelt:-


At the time of the 1901 census, the Madders family resided at 168, Sutherland Avenue, Paddington, London. Head of the house was 52 year old Norwich, Norfolk native John Messenger Madders who was a Banker. The Banns of the marriage of Hubert to Miss Kate Berkeley of Edgbaston, Birmingham, were read in the parish church of St. John the Evangelist, Ladbroke Grove, London, but they were married at Kings Norton, Birmingham in 1911. Hubert was a Member
of the Law Society, and a practicing Solicitor, he was a partner in the firm of Sharpe, Pritchard & Co., of 12, New Court, Carey Street, London, W.C. At the age of 18, Hubert enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company in 1899, and served in it until 1905. During Hubert's period of service in the Honourable Artillery Company, he had been amongst those who were present at the meeting of the Honourable Artillery Company of London, and the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, which took place in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. in 1903. After volunteering for military service during the Great War, Hubert was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, details of which were published in The London Gazette dated 3 December 1915. Hubert was killed in action near the village of Authuille on the first day of the 'Battle of the Somme 1916.' Hubert's widow was residing at 87, Hampstead Way, Golders Green, London, N.W.11. when she submitted a formal application on 12 December 1920, to be furnished with his medals.


At the time of the 1901 census, the March family resided at the Kimberly Hotel, Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 44 year old South Luffenham, Rutland native William March (senior), who was the Hotel Proprietor. William was initially educated at Woodford House School, Station Road, Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent, before going to study at Weymouth Grammar School, Dorset. From Weymouth, William went up to University College, Durham, having obtained a scholarship whilst studying at Weymouth. At Durham William had studied Divinity with the view to entering the Priesthood. After volunteering for military service, William was given a wartime commission as a Second Lieutenant, and was placed on the General List. Having volunteered for service in the Royal Flying Corps, William was accepted for Pilot training in October 1916. He commenced the cadet flying training programme in February 1917, and was presented with his pilot's wings in July 1917 after the successful completion of his training. William clearly had an aptitude for flying, as shortly after the successful completion of the Royal Flying Corps cadet flying training programme, he was offered a post as a Flying Instructor in England. On being offered the instructor post, William courteously but firmly rejected the offer. It was probably something of a good indication of what type of man William was, that when rejecting the instructor post, he made his feelings clear, by saying to his superiors that he thought that the position should be given to somebody who had already served overseas. Doubtless the rejection of the post that he had been offered cost William his life. Although following his death there was some confusion regarding whether William was actually killed in aerial combat, or had
subsequently died of wounds as the result of same, all data sources accessed by the transcriber of these brief commemorations show the same name etcetera of German pilot that shot down William, and many other records also match. On 24 October 1917, William was posted as ‘Missing,’ having last been seen by Allied troops flying between Zillebeke and Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, piloting a Spad VII machine (No. B3571) of 23 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. Reports send from Germany following the Armistice, informed the British authorities that William had been intercepted and shot down by 27 year old Leutnant Hans Hoyer of Jasta 36, at 1427 hours on 24 October 1917 to the south of Westroosebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Additional information provided by the Germans, revealed that William had survived the actual ‘dog fight’ with Hans Hoyer, but had been mortally wounded, and he had almost certainly suffered additional injuries when his Spad VII had impacted on the ground. Despite the best efforts of German medical personnel, William succumbed to his wounds later the same day that he had been wounded whilst a prisoner of war. Harlebeke New British Cemetery where William is now at rest was made after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields of 1918 and, in 1924-1925; they were brought to the cemetery from German cemeteries or plots in Belgium. The earlier concentrations are in Plots I and X, and the later in Plots I, II and XI to XIX. In the latter group are many graves of October 1914. Following his death, William was accorded a military funeral as befitted his rank, when he was buried by the Germans, at the German Military Cemetery, Staden, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. William’s grave was later moved to Harlebeke in 1924 or 1925. Born in Rostock on 20 September 1890, Leutnant Hans Hoyer was killed in action on 15 November 1917 to the north east of Tenbrielen, by which time he had been credited with 8 victories plus another 3 unconfirmed ‘kills,’ the destruction of William’s machine was number 6 of his confirmed victories.

MARSH, T.H. No clear trace of this casualty as he or she has been commemorated on the Westgate-on-Sea, British Legion war memorial. It was frustrating to not be able to identify this person when the transcriber originally research and transcribed the memorial for inclusion on this website. Gordon Brown has informed us of the following casualty, who is commemorated in the parish church of St. Saviours, Westgate-on-Sea, and who is doubtless the same man that is remembered on the British Legion war memorial, with a wrong initial. MARSH, THOMAS WILLIAM. Civilian casualty.
Died 7 May 1915. Aged 29.
Born Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Only son of Thomas Marsh and Louisa Marsh (née Stockbridge) of Richborough Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Husband of Annie S. Marsh (née Wright).
Buried Old Church Cemetery, Cobh (formerly Queenstown), County Cork, Ireland. Grave Ref: Lusitania collective grave, as shown above.
Also commemorated in the parish church of St. Saviours, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Marsh family resided at 6, Dent-de-Lion Cottages, Westgate-on-Sea. Head of the house was 48 year old Monkton, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Thomas Marsh (senior), who was employed as an Agricultural Labourer. Thomas (junior) commemorated above, was recorded by the census enumerator as being employed as an Errand Boy. Following their marriage in 1912, Thomas and Annie Marsh had emigrated to Canada the following year, and had arrived at the port of Quebec onboard the 8,264 ton Allen Line vessel SS Ionian on 29 April 1913. In Canada they lived in the city of Toronto, Ontario, where their son, who was also named Thomas was born in November 1913. For whatever reason, Thomas and Annie made the decision to return to England, and Thomas and his infant son were numbered amongst the 1201 men, women, and children who perished, when the Cunard Line passenger liner RMS Lusitania was sunk by the German submarine U-20, approximately 10 miles off the Old Head of Kinsale, Cork, Ireland at 1400 hours on Friday 7 May 1915. Although Thomas's body was amongst those which were subsequently recovered from the sea, the body of his son was never found. Of the 1,975 people aboard the ship, only 774 survived the sinking, one of whom was 24 year old Canterbury, Kent native Annie Marsh. The controversial sinking of the Lusitania is of course very well documented, and does obviously not require much by way of additional information here. The survivors and victims of the Lusitania were brought to the town of Cobh, and over one hundred lie buried in the Old Church Cemetery just north of the town. Germany had warned American citizens not to travel on British flagged ships into the war zone which it had declared around the British Isles. International pressure on the belligerents argued that tourist and passenger ships were not to be attacked, but only warships and merchant ships carrying arms were deemed to be legitimate targets; the rules of engagement required that a submarine had to surface and allow the crew to get into lifeboats before sinking it. After British Q-ships posing as harmless merchant ships to lure enemy submarines to the surface, and then sink them with hidden guns began making their appearance, Germany resorted to declaring unrestricted warfare which commenced in February 1915, from when the uboats were permitted to sink merchant ships without warning. Commanding the U-20 when at the time of the loss of the RMS Lusitania, was 30 year old Berlin native Kapitänleutnant, Walther Schwieger, who become known world wide as the man who sank the Lusitania, or by the nickname the British gave him, “The Baby Killer.” Walther Schwieger commanded the U-20 from 16 December 1914 to 4 November 1916. He took command of the U-88 on 23 July 1916, and died with the rest of his crew on 5 September 1917, when the U-88 is presumed to have struck a mine while outbound from Germany for the French coast. It is very appropriate that in Casement Square, Cobh, County Cork, Ireland, there is the impressive Lusitania Peace Memorial, as all rescue operations to save the victims of the sinking of the RMS Lusitania, were launched out of the town of Cobh by the local fishermen and navy forces which were based there at the time. Organised by Cobh Tourism, a ceremony of prayers, musical honours and the laying of wreaths is held annually in the town to commemorate the RMS Lusitania victims. The
commemoration event commences at the Lusitania graves in the Old Church Cemetery, where Thomas Marsh is amongst those at rest there. Later a parade leaves from the Old Town Hall on Lynch’s Quay to the Lusitania Peace Memorial, Casement Square, in Cobh Town Centre where further ceremonies take place.

MEASURES, ARTHUR RICHARD. Rifleman, 391190.
"B" Company, 1st/9th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles).
Died 1 July 1916. Aged 38.
Son of Richard Measures of "Rockleigh," Strete Court Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent and of the late Mary Ann E. Measures (née Clarke).
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9 C.
Formerly Private, 3914, 1st/9th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles). At the time of the 1891 census, the Measures family resided at the Ladymede Hotel, Harting, Sussex. Head of the house was 57 year old Thorney, Cambridgeshire native Richard Measures, who was an Engineering Iron Manufacturer Contractor and an employer. In 1908 when the Territorial Force was created, the 9th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles), was allocated to the 3rd London Brigade, 1st London Division. In August 1914, shortly after the commencement of Great War a second line battalion was formed, and in April 1915 a third line, thus there were the 1/9th, 2/9th and 3/9th Battalions. The 1st London Division was broken up to provide reinforcements for the British Expeditionary Force. Arthur’s battalion at the time of his death was in the 169th Brigade, 56th (1st London) Division. The village of Gommecourt and Gommecourt Wood were attacked by the 56th (London) and 46th (North Midland) Divisions on the first day of the ‘Battle of the Somme 1916’ on Saturday 1 July 1916, but with only temporary success. By the end of the day, the 1st/9th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen Victoria’s Rifles), is known to have suffered at least 545 casualties, which had included 212 other ranks fatalities. Numbered amongst those who fell on Saturday 1 July 1916 serving in the same battalion as Arthur, were brothers Rifleman Philip James Bassett and Rifleman Henry Bassett who were from Kilburn, London. Philip and Henry were the brothers of Mrs. Jean Pichon, of 28, Rue Vauquelin, Paris, France, and of Miss Mary Bassett, and they are at rest in adjacent graves at
Gommecourt British Cemeteries No.2, Hebuterne, Pas de Calais, France. Gommecourt village was eventually occupied by the British 31st and 46th Divisions on the night of 27/28 February 1917, and it then remained in British hands until the end of the Great War.


At the time of the 1901 census, the Molesworth family resided at Church House, Higham, Kent. Head of the house was 33 year old Paris, France born British Subject George Bagot Molesworth, who was serving as a Captain in the British army. When Charles’s parents and his sister, The Honourable Irene Molesworth, arrived at the Port of London from India, onboard the 8,840 ton P & O ship “Kashgar,” on Monday 12 April 1915, at which time their intended destination had been The Rectory, Chelsea, London. Notification of Charles’s commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry was published in The London Gazette dated Thursday 6 April 1916. Charles was wounded during ‘The Battle of Arras 1917’ during a period when thankfully only comparative light casualties were being inflicted on the 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. After being wounded, Charles was initially treated at his battalions Regimental Aid Post, which was located adjacent to a railway line near Le Corroy, Pas de Calais, France. Charles was taken from the Regimental Aid Post to the 11th Canadian Field Ambulance at Villers-au-Bois for treatment, which is where he succumbed to his wounds. ‘The Battle of Arras’ began on Monday 9 April 1917 when Australian, British, Canadian, Newfoundland, and New Zealand formations fought on a front that stretched from Vimy Ridge in the north west, through Arras and on to Bullecourt in the south east against the heavily fortified German line. The battle had been planned to coincide with ‘The Nivelle Offensive’ which was fought from Monday 16 April 1917 to Wednesday 9 May 1917 that was carried out by the French army. ‘The Battle of Arras’ continued until Wednesday 16 May 1917 following a final large scale attack which had been carried out on Thursday 3 May 1917, when casualties had been particularly high on the Allies side. Arguably overshadowed by historians, commentators and the public at large by the battles on the Somme in France, and those on the Ypres Salient in Belgium. ‘The Battle of Arras’ which cost Charles his life has been described with good reason as “the greatest killing battle of the Great War,” with staggeringly consistent daily casualty rate exceeding 4,000. Villers Station
Cemetery where Charles is at rest was begun by the French, but it was used by Commonwealth Divisions and Field Ambulances from the time they took over this part of the front in July 1916 until September 1918. It is associated particularly with the Canadian Corps whose headquarters were nearby, and many of the graves in Plots V to X date from April 1917 and the ‘Battle of Vimy Ridge.’

MOOR, CHRISTOPHER. Lieutenant.
2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.
Died 6 August 1915. Aged 23.
Born Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire 2 February 1892.
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey.
Panel 125-134 or 223-226 228-229 & 328.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Moor family resided at “Clarence House,” 15, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings, Sussex. Head of the family was 37 year old London native Constance Mary Moor, who was recorded by the census enumerator as being the Wife of Canon Moor. Christopher was initially educated at Abbotsholme School, Rocester Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, prior to going to Bradfield College, Reading, Berkshire when he was older. From Bradfield College he went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge in 1910, where he gained his Mechanical Science Degree (with Honours) in 1913. On the completion of his studies at Cambridge, Christopher along with his father, he then spent some time in Canada, and whilst there he entered McGill University, Montreal, taking a Post-Graduate course in engineering. Christopher and his father then aged 56, arrived back at Liverpool, Lancashire on Friday 18 July 1913, as passengers onboard the ill fated 14,191 ton Canadian Pacific ship Empress of Ireland. At the commencement of the Great War, Christopher volunteered for military service, and was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant on Saturday 15 August 1914, and posted to serve in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. He was later transferred to serve in the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, and was posted to Gallipoli. Between Thursday 25 May and Sunday 30 May 1915, the 2nd Battalion was located at Pink Farm, Gallipoli which was a mile to the south-west
of Fir Tree Wood, and it was there that Christopher and 4 other officers plus 40 other ranks joined the battalion from the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. On the day of Christopher’s arrival, 200 members of the 1/10th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Manchester Regiment were attached to the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment for instruction. In June 1915 Christopher was taken ill and was eventually hospitalised in Egypt, and had only rejoined his battalion from hospital on Saturday 17 July 1915. On Friday 6 August 1915, Christopher’s battalion in unison with the 4th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment, and the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Manchester Regiment were ordered to assault and capture Turkish trenches at Achi Baba, as part of an overall plan for the attack, if successful then pressing on to the Krithia Nullah the following day. Christopher’s battalion and the other assaulting troops were in place at 0800 hours on Friday 6 August 1915, but then waited for a full six hours before the supporting artillery bombardment commenced, before the infantry assault on the Turkish trenches at Achi Baba could get under way. Having only recently arrived on Gallipoli, having replaced Lieutenant-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, K.C.B., D.S.O., the Commander of the 8th Corps, General Sir Francis Davis, was appalled to see the wholly inadequate standard of artillery support that was being achieved when compared to that on the Western Front, which in turn was not to the standard of that achieved later in the war. It was noted that since the Allied forces had last attacked the Turkish positions, the trenches etcetera at Achi Baba/Krithia Nullah had been considerably strengthened. At 1550 hours the infantry attacked the well fortified Turkish trenches, with Christopher’s battalion attacking in four waves. A low crest some fifty yards from the start line was crossed almost without loss, but then heavy Turkish machine-guns opened up on all sides, and quite literally mowed down the attacking infantry, before hardly any of them had got very far across No Man’s Land, some of the guns across the Krithia Nullah on the right flank of Christopher’s battalion, were recorded as having been particularly accurate and deadly. Of the attacking battalions, it was the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment which suffered the most total casualties. Christopher was one of only a very few members that actually reached the entrenched Turks, and he fell on their parapet when he was shot through the heart. In addition to his interest in engineering, architecture, and literature Christopher had a deep interest in Egypt, and had even taught himself to read hieroglyphic writing. Although his time spent as a soldier had sadly been of only a short duration, during that time he had instructed the Signallers of several battalions. He had also gained an enviable reputation as being a keen and promising officer by his peers and his superiors, which was clearly reflected in the many letters of condolence that his family received from brother officers and members of the rank and file, several of the letters made reference of Christopher’s heroic charge on the Turkish trenches at Achi Baba. The Canadian Pacific ship Empress of Ireland, which Christopher and his father had sailed on from Canada in 1913, was sunk in a collision with the 6,000 ton Norwegian collier Storstad, during a thick fog that prevailed on the St. Lawrence River on Friday 29 May 1914. She went down within 15 minutes with the loss of 1,024 lives, at the time being rated as one of the worst disasters on the Atlantic.
MORGAN, ROLAND (Ronald) CHARLES WYBROW. Lieutenant.
3rd (Reserve) Battalion, South Wales Borderers, and Royal Flying Corps.
Born Shepperton, Middlesex September 1897.
Only child of Aaron Herbert Morgan and Constance Rachel E. Morgan (née Robertson) of “Upthorpe,” Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of 16, Mark Lane, London, EC.
Also commemorated on the war memorial at the Priory Church of St. Mary & St. Michael, Great Malvern, Worcestershire.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Morgan family resided at “Upthorpe,” Caversham, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. Head of the house was 36 year old Streatham, Surrey native Aaron Herbert Morgan, who was a Wine Shipper and an employer. When the Morgan family later resided at Westgate-on-Sea, ‘Ronald’s’ father was recorded as being a Wine Merchant and an employer. Although he had been Christened Roland, Lieutenant Morgan was always known and addressed as ‘Ronald’ by all and sundry, including his family. He was educated at Doon House Preparatory School, Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and afterwards at Uppingham School, Oakham, Rutland. ‘Ronald’ was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the South Wales Borderers in July 1915, and was attached to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. He obtained his Pilots Licence early in 1917, and was posted to serve on the Western Front in April 1917, where he then remained until his death. He died on 28 July 1917 as the result of the wounds that he had received the previous day.

PERRINS, DONALD STEWART. Private, L/10186.
2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Born and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Frederick Perrins of 22, Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent. Commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 18.
Donald’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1896. As is often the case noted when researching casualties with the Christian name Stewart or Stuart, Donald’s second Christian name has been found to be spelt both ways by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, whilst carrying out the Westgate-on-Sea, British Legion Memorial update on this website. Less than a month prior to the commencement of the Great War, Donald enlisted in the army as a regular soldier, for 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve on 16 July 1914. When he enlisted, Donald stated that he was 18 years and 91 days old, and employed as a Merchant Seaman. At the time of his enlistment, the Perrins family resided at “Waverley,” Cliff Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Donald was originally attested to serve in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, but on 20 July 1914, Donald was transferred to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). After serving in the
9th (Reserve) Battalion, and 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, of his regiment, Donald was transferred to the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) on 8 June 1915, at which time he was posted to France for service in the British Expeditionary Force, and then remained in the same battalion until his death. Having already suffered heavy casualties during the Second Battle of Ypres, commanded by 41 year old Boer War veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Claude A. Worthington, the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) travelled from Bailleul to the devastated village of Vermelles, where it arrived at 1300 hours on 27 September 1915, as part of the 28th Division to take part in the Battle of Loos 1915 (25 September-19 October 1915). With the benefit of hindsight many regrettably costly errors can be seen appertaining to the Battle of Loos. When compared to the actions that had been fought by the British army during the spring of the same year, Loos was a much larger undertaking, which was carried out by six divisions, and as such was justifiably referred to as “The Big Push.” The battle was fought over ground that was not the choice of the British, and at a time prior to the required stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery being available in sufficient quantities for the undertaking. Having rallied international sympathy, following the German’s use of poison gas for the first time in April 1915, the opening of the battle was noteworthy as being the first occasion that poison gas was used by the British Army. General Douglas Haig had issued orders for the release of the gas, and an artillery bombardment, at 0550 hours on 25 September 1915 with the main infantry attack timed to commence forty minutes later. Despite incurring heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day, in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. Unfortunately the infantry reserves had been held to far back from the battle front, to be able to exploit the costly successes that had been achieved, which resulted in the succeeding days being bogged down into attritional warfare for comparatively only minor gains. At a stage and location which during the battle was described by the Commander-in-Chief as being “distinctly precarious,” Major (later Lieutenant Colonel D.S.O.) Miles Beevor, was ordered to lead “A” and “D” Companies to relieve parties to the north of a location named ‘Fosse 8’ which was a coal mine with a huge slag dump, and located to the south of the village of Auchy-les-Mines. The German defenses at ‘Fosse 8’ had included the formidable Hohenzollern Redoubt. On reaching the allotted position, the officers and other ranks of “A” and “D” Companies were probably surprised to find that it had been already abandoned. Commanding the 85th Brigade, 28th Division to which the 2nd Battalion belonged, was former Brigade of Guards officer, Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, (later Major-General Sir C.E. Pereira, K.C.B., C.M.G.), who had accompanied them, and he ordered Major Beevor’s companies to establish themselves in the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Due to the congestion which prevailed at that time in the communication trench, the decision was taken to cross above ground, to comply with the Brigadier-General’s fresh orders, and attempt to reach their fresh location and assault the enemy at the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Several casualties occurred during the hazardous overland route as the soldiers were subjected to heavy enemy artillery shelling. Included amongst those wounded was Brigadier-General C.E. Pereira, and his Brigade-Major, who was Captain
Flower, and Lieutenant Geoffrey Cory-Wright commanding "D" Company, who later served in the Royal Flying Corps and R.A.F. Once at the enemy position, a platoon of "D" Company charged the Germans and killed about twenty of their number. Throughout the night the soldiers of "A" and "D" Companies remained at the new position, during which time bombing parties were particularly active, and the evacuation of the wounded was carried out under difficult circumstances, due to the heavy rain, conditions underfoot and the distance they had to be carried by tired men. The remainder of the 85th Brigade also came up under the cover of darkness, and "B" and "C" Companies of the 2nd Battalion moved into positions located to the rear of "A" and "D" Companies. Donald was amongst the 135 other ranks fatalities suffered by his battalion on the day that he died.

POINTER, FREDERICK JAMES. Private, SS/13242.
18th Labour Company, Army Service Corps.
Died at sea 13 August 1915.
Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Henry Charles Samuel Pointer (1852-1932), of 4, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of the late Emma Ann Pointer (née Sayer).
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Turkey. Panel 199 or 233 to 236 and 331, also on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Pointer family resided at 4, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 49 year old Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Henry Pointer, who was employed as a General Labourer. Frederick was recorded by the census enumerator as being a 13 year old schoolboy, which would be indicative of him having been about 28 years old when he died. Frederick was numbered amongst the 121 Army Service Corps personnel who perished when H.M.S. Royal Edward was sunk. Owned by the Canadian Northern Steamships, Ltd., of Toronto, Canada, the 11,117 ton
vessel Royal Edward, as pictured above, had a crew of 220, and was being used as a British troopship, travelling from Avonmouth to Mudros via Malta and Alexandria at the time of her loss. Having called at Malta on 6 August 1915 the ship arrived at the port of Alexandria, Egypt on 10 August. She sailed from Alexandria on 12 August heading for Mudros, carrying 32 army officers and 1335 other ranks, which were mainly of reinforcements for the 29th Division, Royal Army Medical Corps. On the same day that the unescorted ship had sailed from Alexandria, the recently arrived German submarine UB-14 which was commanded by 25 year old Oberleutnant zur See, Heino von Heimburg, sailed from Bodrum, Turkey, making for the steamer route between Alexandria and the Dardanelles. Just after 0900 hours on 13 August, H.M.S. Royal Edward was torpedoed by the UB-14 when she was 6 miles to the west of Kandeliusa Island, off Kos in the Aegean Sea. H.M.S. Royal Edward sank quickly with her after deck was awash in three minutes and the ship had sunk with her bows in the air in six minutes. Of the 1,586 onboard the ship less than 500 were rescued. Those that were saved were picked up by the P & O Liner Soudan, which was in service as a hospital ship, two French destroyers, and also some trawlers which were near enough to the scene to help with the rescue operations. The Soudan which played a leading role in the rescue operations had a narrow escape from meeting the same fate as H.M.S. Royal Edward, as she had passed the ill fated vessel earlier on the morning of the disaster. Much decorated, Heino von Heimburg was awarded the Pour le Mérite on 11 August 1917 in recognition of outstanding naval operations and for having sunk 62,000 tons of enemy shipping, including H.M.S. Royal Edward, and the British submarine E20. He also sank the Italian submarine Medusa and the Italian cruiser Amalfi. Having been promoted a number of times, on 1 April 1942, Heino von Heimburg was promoted to the rank of Vizeadmiral whilst serving in the Kriegsmarine. At the end of the Second World War, Soviet forces captured him, at which time he was 55 year old retired naval officer. He was transported to the USSR and held in a prisoner of war camp near the city of Stalingrad, where he died in October 1945. Frederick was a brother of William Pointer who is the next casually briefly commemorated below.

POINTER, WILLIAM. Able Seaman, 220380.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Aboukir.
Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent 4 December 1885.
Son of Henry Charles Samuel Pointer (1852-1932), of 4, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of the late Emma Ann Pointer (née Sayer).
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 2, as shown above, and on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.
For 1901 census details appertaining to the Pointer family, please see the brief tribute to William’s brother Frederick. At the time of the census, William had been employed as an Errand Boy. When William enlisted in the Royal Navy for 12 years on 14 December 1903, he stated that he was employed as a Conductor. William initially served as a Boy 2nd Class onboard the Boys Training Ship
H.M.S. Ganges at Shotley, Suffolk, shortly after she had been moved from Harwich, Essex. On 8 June 1906 his rating was changed to a Boy 1st Class. Early in his career William had qualified as a Diver, and had initially served as same onboard the 14,600 ton armoured cruiser H.M.S. Minotaur. On 4 March 1913 whilst he was serving onboard the 9,800 ton armoured cruiser H.M.S. Monmouth, William passed the educational requirements for a Petty Officer, and was awarded his certificate on 17 May 1913. Prior to the Great War, William had served a number of times at H.M.S. Pembroke, Chatham, and twice at H.M.S. Actaeon which was a Torpedo School & Auxiliary Patrol base at Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. He had also served on H.M.S. Wildfire, H.M.S. Achilles, H.M.S. Egeria, H.M.S. Foresight, H.M.S. Aeolus, H.M.S. Aquarius, and had only served on H.M.S. Aboukir since 2 April 1914. 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 16 July 1914 the German submarine U-9 became the first submarine in history to reload torpedoes whilst still submerged, and on 22 September 1914 the same submarine under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen who had commanded the U-9 since 1 August 1914, sighted H.M.S.Cressy, H.M.S. Aboukir and H.M.S. Hogue all steaming NNE 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 peace, and were able to reload 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. 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 so 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 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. Cresssy which was commanded by Captain Johnson. H.M.S. Cresssy had also stopped to lower boats but quickly got underway on sighting a submarine’s periscope. At about 0720 hours Otto Weddigen fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed but the other hit H.M.S. Cresssy on her starboard side. The damage to H.M.S. Cresssy was...
not fatal but the U-9 then turned round and fired her last torpedo as a coup de grace which hit Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour. Survivors of the disaster were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch Flora and Titan and the British trawlers JGC and Coraider 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 18 March 1915 the German submarine U-29 was rammed and sunk by H.M.S. Dreadnought in the Pentland Firth, all 32 submariners onboard perished, including Otto Weddigen who had been in command since 16 February 1915. Frederick and William's mother; Emma Pointer died at 2, Chester Road, Westgate-on-Sea, on 10 February 1897.


Formerly Private, 3436, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), and Private, 7158 & 613103, 19th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (St. Pancras). At the time of the 1901 census, the Potter family resided at 14, Richborough Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was Whitstable, Kent native William Abraham Potter, who was employed as a Labourer. Frederick was a brother of Herbert Potter, who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. Although this is a brief tribute to Frederick, it would be remiss to not also draw attention of the service to his country by Frederick and Herbert's father. Born at Whitstable, Kent on 8 May 1862, the Potter brothers father; William Abraham Potter had also served during the Great War as a member of the Army Service Corps. William enlisted in the army ‘For the Duration of the War’ on Wednesday 5 May 1915 in London, at which time he stated that he was 46 years of age, employed as a Labourer, and that he resided with his wife at "Burnley,” Reculver Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Although it is purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and should be viewed as such, as no supporting documentary evidence has been sighted, but it might be the case that William, who had formerly served as member of the Volunteers, had remained as a part-time soldier when the Volunteers were replaced by the Territorial Force on Wednesday 1 April 1908. It might also be the case that William who had the regimental number SS/10421, had in fact like many other former Territorial Force personnel enlisted for army service during the Great War ‘For the Duration of the War’ shortly after the termination of his service in the Territorial Force. The SS prefix on William's regimental number being indicative of that of an Army Service Corps Supply
Specialist. On Saturday 22 May 1915, which was only 17 days after he had enlisted, William was posted overseas for service with the British Expeditionary Force. Whilst serving in France, William transferred to serve as Private, 302994, 722nd Labour Company, Labour Corps. He then remained in the Labour Corps until being discharged to the “Z” Reserve on Monday 17 March 1919. The cemetery extension at Chauny where Frederick is at rest was made after the Armistice for the burial of remains brought in from the battlefields of the Aisne and from sixteen smaller cemeteries in the surrounding countryside. Although the cemetery contains 437 identified casualties, there are just over 1,000 Great War casualties commemorated at the cemetery. The majority of them died in 1918 and the majority of the others died in September 1914. Included in the total figure are 6 soldiers of the United Kingdom whose identity had been established with reasonable, but not absolute certainty and who are commemorated by special memorial headstones bearing the superscription 'Believed to be,' and 26 soldiers of the United Kingdom and 5 of Canada whose graves could be identified collectively but not individually, and who are commemorated by special memorial headstones bearing the superscription 'Buried near this spot.' There are also 26 soldiers of the United Kingdom who are commemorated in the cemetery as follows:- 22 who were buried at the time in Mennessis and Premontrc Communal cemeteries, and in the former German cemeteries at Crecy-sur-Serre, Villequier-Aumont, Versigny, Couchy-le-Chateau, Fourdrain and Suzy and whose graves are lost, are all commemorated by special memorial headstones inscribed to that effect, with the additional inscription 'Their glory shall not be blotted out,' 3 are commemorated by special memorial headstones bearing the superscription 'Believed to be buried in this cemetery,' and one, whose grave is known to be in the cemetery although the exact place of burial could not be established, is commemorated by a special memorial headstone inscribed 'Buried in this cemetery.'

POTTER, HERBERT HENRY. Rifleman, 10506. 4th Battalion, King’s Royal Rifle Corps. Died 28 January 1915. Aged 21. Born Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted London. Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of William Abraham Potter and Alice Maud Potter (née Allen) of "Burnley," Reculver Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 53. Herbert was a regular soldier, and at the commencement of the Great War he was serving in the 4th Battalion, King’s Royal Rifle Corps which was stationed at Gharial, India. Having been recalled from India to England, Herbert’s battalion moved during the night of Tuesday 6 October 1914, and arrived at West Ridge, Rawal Pindi the following day. On Friday 9 October the battalion entrained for the port of Bombay, where it embarked on the 8,265 ton Allan Line vessel SS Ionian, which was being used as a troopship. The battalion sailed from Bombay on Friday 16 October, and arrived at Plymouth, Devon on Sunday 15 November 1914. It moved to Morn Hill Camp near Winchester, Hampshire on Wednesday
18 November and joined the 80th Brigade, 27th Division. The 4th Battalion, King’s Royal Rifle Corps spent only a short time at Morn Hill Camp, as it sailed from Southampton on Sunday 20 December 1914, and arrived at the French port of Harve the following day. The following is an extract from an article which was published in the Hampshire Observer on Boxing Day 1914. “Scenes such as no other town, with the exception of Southampton, has witnessed during the present war engaged Wintonians during the week-end, when what the Court Circular described as the 27th Division of the British Expeditionary Force left their canvas town on Morn-Hill and marched to Southampton to embark for an unknown destination. Few were sorry to leave the camp, but most regretted parting with Winchester, where all agreed they had been well looked after and catered for. Their stay on Morn-Hill was a period during which the British climate proved its versatility. Every sample of weather, with the exception of the heat of the dog days and the snow of mid-winter was displayed for the benefit of the brave men who had returned from the tropics and were therefore unaccustomed to these differences. Our readers will remember that they arrived in Winchester during the bitterest weather we have experienced since the autumn set in. Clad in the thin khaki drill which they wore in the tropics, the men shivered and turned blue with the cold as the biting north-east wind nipped them with its icy tooth. For the first days they suffered the rigour of this grip of real winter, for adequate stores had not arrived, and they found it impossible to keep warm. They awoke in the morning to find the country all round them white with frost, but this they did not mind, for exercise could make them warm, and there was an abundance of food. In a few days, as if by a magician’s wand, they were all clad in the warm khaki clothing served out for field service, and as time went on many of them were served out with goat-skin coats, while all had an abundance of woollies. It is not a little remarkable that appeals to Winchester and Hampshire people for troops who had no territorial connection with Hampshire met with a very ready response - comforts were given for all units, as well as to the Rifle Brigade and the King’s Royal Rifle Corps, who are more our own.” From Harve the battalion went by train to Aire-sur-la-Lys, Pas de Calais, France, where it arrived on Wednesday 23 December 1914, and from Aire marched northwards to billets which were located at the village of Blaringhem, Nord, France. Having marched from Blaringhem, on Wednesday 6 January 1915 Herbert’s battalion arrived at Dickebusch, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, and then commenced tours in the St. Eloi sector trenches, which the battalion records note that the trenches were waist deep in liquid mud, and that the enemy positions were only between 30 and 80 yards away. It was whilst he was in the St. Eloi sector trenches that Herbert lost his life when he was killed in action. By the time that Herbert’s surviving comrades were first relived in the sector, 5 officers and approximately 50 other ranks were unable to walk due to suffering from the effects frostbite. It would appear to be the case that Herbert’s was one of the five 4th Battalion, King’s Royal Rifle Corps casualties of 28 January 1915, whose original graves were lost due to shelling, prior to their removal to Dickebusch Old Military Cemetery, where the other casualty, 27 year old Bugler, Francis John Bowden of Shepherd’s Bush, London is at rest. The other five are all commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ieper, Belgium.
PRICE. CLIFFORD. Private, 245380.
2nd (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), attached to the 23rd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) (1st Sportsmans).
Died 17 April 1918.
Son of Hugh Woodville Price and Ada Martha Price (née Peart).
Buried Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France.
Grave Ref: IV. H. 38.
Formerly Private, 2739, Royal East Kent Mounted Rifles, and Private, 240284, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Price family resided at “Ashinore,” Piermont Avenue Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 24 year old Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Hugh Woodville Price, who was a Merchant Service Midshipman. Hugh was a former pupil (boarder) of Carlisle Grammar School, Rickergate, Carlisle, Cumberland. During the early part of April 1918, the battalion to which Clifford was attached was busy making a series of moves in northern France, which were as the direct result of the onslaught of the German Spring Offensive of 1918, being in turn in Hedeauville, Beauval, Houvin, Houvigneul, Ivergny, Coullemont, La Cauchie. On Sunday 14 April the battalion relieved the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards in Brigade Reserve in front of Blaireville; both battalions belonged to the 2nd Division. On Tuesday 16 April the battalion moved to front line positions which were located in the right sub-sector, in front of the village of Adinfer, Pas de Calais some 6 miles to the south of the town of Arras, where it was engaged on alternate front line and support duty until the end of the month. It was on the second day of the battalions’ tour of duty in the front line trenches to the front of the village of Adinfer; to the south west of Arras that Clifford was killed in action.

PRICE. FREDERICK SYDNEY. Private, 77923.
7th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regiment).
Born Streatham, Middlesex 29 August 1892.
Son of William Holroyd Price and Frances Catherine Price (née Williams) of “Ingleside,” Westcliffe Road, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on page 311 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.
At the time of the 1901 census, Frederick was a pupil at Brunswick School, Oathall Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, as was his brother Herbert Holroyd Price who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below. The Price brothers’ parents were residing at 7, Ashville Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire when the 1901 census was taken. When Frederick enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Victoria, British Columbia on Monday 11 January 1915, he stated that he was a Farmer, and that he was a member of the Canadian Militia, serving as a Private in the 50th Gordon Highlanders of Canada.
PRICE, HERBERT HOLROYD. Private, 266849.
2/1st Buckinghamshire Battalion, (Territorial Force) Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.
Born Streatham, Middlesex. Enlisted Weymouth, Dorset.
Son of William Holroyd Price and Frances Catherine Price (née Williams) of “Ingleside,” Westcliffe Road, Broadstairs, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Panel 51.
Formerly Private, 4731, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. For additional brief 1901 census details appertaining to Herbert and his family, please see the commemoration in rememberance of his brother Frederick above.
The 2/1st Buckinghamshire Battalion, (Territorial Force) Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry was formed at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire in September 1914 as a second line unit. Although Harold is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as serving in the 2/1st Buckinghamshire Battalion, (Territorial Force) Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry when he lost his life, but on 22 February 1918 the battalion was disbanded at Germaine, at which time most members of the battalion became personnel of 25th Entrenching Battalion. The 25th Entrenching Battalion was one of the battalions which assisted with making defences where needed. The Entrenching Battalion’s were composite battalions made up of men from different units, but who still retained their respective regiment or corps cap badges.

RAIKES, FREDERICK MUNRO. Lieutenant.
2/1st (Breconshire) Battalion, (Territorial Force), South Wales Borderers, attached to the Machine Gun Corps.
Died 22 February 1917.
Born Paddington, London.
Son of Robert Taunton Raikes and Sophia Jane Raikes (née Munro).
Husband of Harriett Elizabeth Raikes (née Kempe) of 18, The Riding, Golders Green Road, Golders Green, London, N.W.11.
Frederick was baptised at the parish church of St. Mary Magdalene, Paddington, London on 9 May 1872, at which time the Raikes family resided at Delamere Crescent, Paddington, London, and Robert Taunton Raikes was recorded as being a Barrister. Having married Harriett Elizabeth Kempe in 1900, at the time of the 1901 census Frederick, his wife Harriett and their 1 month old daughter Elenor, resided at 47, Fitzgeorge Avenue, Fulham, London, W14. Frederick was recorded as being 29 years old, and the head of the house by the census enumerator, and employed as a Solicitor. Having been admitted to the Bar in 1900, at the time of enlisting for military in September 1915, Frederick was a Partner in the practice of Wilkinson, Raikes & Son, of 3, Nicholas lane, London, E.C. Having been gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the South Wales Borderers, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant after being attached to the Machine Gun Corps. When Frederick was killed in action in Mesopotamia his home address was recorded as “Middleshaws,” Walpole Avenue, Chipstead,
Coulsden, Surrey. When the transcriber of these brief commemorations noticed the above address it seemed familiar, and initially thought that at some time in the past Frederick had already been researched for inclusion on this website, or on behalf of somebody or organisation over the last 50 odd years. A bit more delving and all became clear, and although this is a brief tribute in remembrance of Frederick Raikes, it seemed only right to add the following information appertaining to another ‘Kent’ casualty, and hero of the Great War.

“Middleshaws,” Walpole Avenue, Chipstead, Coulsden, Surrey, where Frederick had resided was also the home address of 20 year old Lewisham, Kent native, Lieutenant Arthur Percival Foley Rhys-Davids, D.S.O., M.C. and Bar, 56 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, who was the only son of Thomas William Rhys-Davids and Caroline Augusta Rhys-Davids (née Foley), and who was killed in aerial combat on 27 October 1917. The Rhys-Davids family remained at 21, Honor Oak Road, Lewisham, Kent (now London SE23) until 1904; Thomas William Rhys-Davids was appointed a Professor of comparative religion at Manchester University. Arthur had been an outstanding student throughout his academic career, and in 1911 he was enrolled at Eton College as a King’s Scholar. At Eton he specialized in Classics, and his interests included Poetry, English Literature and Music. He joined the Officer Training Corps, and was also a keen sportsman, competing in Rugby, Football (Soccer), Cricket, Eton Wall Game and the Eton Field Game. He left Eton in 1916, a Newcastle Scholar, Captain of the school, and having won an exhibition at Oxford University, and he had intended to take up his place at Balliol College, Oxford when he returned home from the war. Arthur joined the Royal Flying Corps on 28 August 1916, as a Second Lieutenant in the Special Reserve, and on completion of his flying training in England and Scotland, he was posted to 56 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps and posted to serve on the Western Front. During his first experience of aerial combat on 7 May 1917 his squadron suffered greatly at the hands of some very experienced German aviators. One of the pilots who were killed in his squadron on 7 May 1917 was the legendary Captain Albert Ball V.C., D.S.O. and 2 Bars, M.C. from Nottingham. Arthur also later served with another ‘Kent’ casualty and hero of the Great War, James Thomas Byford McCudden, V.C., D.S.O. and Bar, M.C. and Bar, M.M. Once in the air, even by his own admission Arthur’s nature could be a little too daring for everyone else’s liking. As commander of "B Flight," James McCudden had cause to lecture him about unnecessary risks and their consequences. Arthur would confess to his mother that once in the air he became a different man and that people could not understand the nature of aerial combat. During his six months of active service Arthur had a hand in a total of 25 victories, including those over German aces Oberleutnant Karl Menckhoff and Leutnant Werner Voss in the same fight on 23 September 1917. Arthur was last seen flying east of Roulers when he went missing on 27 October 1917, and the Germans credited Karl Gallwitz of Jasta Boelcke as having shot him down. Arthur’s family anxiously hoped he had survived and that he was a prisoner of war, but a machine from Jasta Boelcke flew over the aerodrome of Arthur’s squadron, and dropped a message giving the details of his death and his funeral, which had been with full military honours.
RANDALL, THOMAS WILLIAM.
St. John’s Ambulance Brigade.
Born Yalding, Kent.
Son of Thomas Randall and Anne M. Randall of the Walmer Castle Hotel, Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Margate Cemetery, Manston Road, Margate, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Also commemorated on the memorial stone as shown above, which is located in front of the mass grave at Faversham Borough Cemetery, Love Lane, Ladydene, Whitstable Road, Faversham, Kent, of victims of the explosion at Uplees, Faversham on 2 April 1916.
Thomas was born at Bayfield Cottages, Yalding, Kent, at which time his father Thomas Randall (senior) who was also a native of Yalding, was employed as a Butcher. At the time of the 1901 census, Thomas (junior) then aged 24, was employed as a Butchers Assistant, and resided at the home of his employer 50 year old Crookham, Surrey native Luke Freeman, who was a Master Butcher at Yalding. Thomas’s death was registered in the Faversham, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1916. He was one of the two members of the St. John’s Ambulance Brigade who lost their lives during the “Great Explosion” which occurred at 1420 hours on Sunday 2 April 1916, at Uplees near Faversham, Kent, when an estimated 116 people lost their lives at the works of the Cotton Powder Company and the Explosives Loading Company. About 200 tons of trinitrotoluene (TNT) ignited, and a brave attempt was made to extinguish the fire before it got out of control, but factory manager George Evetts ordered everyone to leave the site when the situation became hopeless. However, the explosion occurred as everyone was leaving the site, and an indication of force of it could be judged by the fact that the crater made by the explosion was about forty yards across and twenty feet deep. In need of further research, but it would appear that Thomas was employed as a Barman by his father at his Hotel.
RICHARDSON, ROBERT JOSEPH GORDON. Rifleman, 4700.
1st/16th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles).
Son of Robert Richardson and Esther Jane Richardson of 4, Faversham Road, Catford, London, SE6.
Husband of Dorothy May Richardson (née Butler) of The Nook, Belmont Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 13 C.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Richardson family resided at 4, Faversham Road, Catford, Kent. Head of the house was 53 year old Ovingham, Prudhoe, Northumberland native Robert Richardson, who was employed as a Solicitors Clerk. Prior to moving to the above address at Catford, the Richardson family had resided at 4, Canterbury Road, Lewisham, Kent for a number of years, and it would seem likely that it is where Robert (junior) was actually born. Robert enlisted for 4 years in the Territorial Force on 8 November 1915, at which time he stated that he resided at 4, Faversham Road, Catford, Kent. He was initially attested to serve as a Rifleman in the 1/3rd (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers. On 30 March 1916 Robert married Miss Dorothy May Butler, at the parish church of Christ Church, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. On 22 June 1916, Robert was transferred to the 1st/16th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles). The day after being transferred, Robert sailed for France from Folkestone, Kent for service with the British Expeditionary Force, and he arrived at Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France on 24 June 1916. Robert joined his battalion in the field, just in time to take part in the first day ‘Battle of the Somme 1916.’ As part of the 169th Brigade, 56th (1st London) Division, the 1st/16th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) moved up during the night from St. Amand, Pas de Calais, and assembled in the trenches at Hébuterne on 30 June 1916. Robert’s battalion was in support for the British attack on the Somme village of Gommecourt on Saturday 1 July 1916. During the attack, the German front line trenches were taken, and one small party which was led by an officer of the 1/5th (Earl of Chester's) Battalion, (Territorial Force) Cheshire Regiment, reached the objective at The Quadrilateral. Of the 750 members of Robert’s battalion which took part in the attack, about 600 were casualties. Having made a series of moves since the first day of the Somme battles, on 13 September 1916, Robert’s battalion moved up from Citadel Camp, and went into former German trenches which were located to the north of the Somme village of Hardecourt. At 0550 hours on 18 September, the battalion took part in an attack which effectively lasted for 2 days. On the first day of the attack it was checked by enemy machine gun fire on a sunken road. By 1000 hours on 3 officers and 90 other ranks remained unwounded and as such it was a much depleted fighting battalion which carried on fighting prior to being withdrawn to Angle Wood. Robert was amongst 25 other ranks death which his battalion suffered on the day he died.
ROBBINS, WILLIAM BARRETT. Private, 245422.
2nd (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).
Son of Albert Edward Robbins and Lily Robbins (née Hedges) of “St. Bernard’s,”
Victoria Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Seraucourt-le-Grand, Aisne, France.
Grave Ref: VII. D. 10.
Formerly Rifleman, 2465 & 301595, 5th (City of London) Battalion, London
Regiment (London Rifle Brigade). At the time of the 1901 census, the Robbins
family resided at 4, Park Villas, Chadwell Heath, Dagenham, Essex. Head of the
house was 30 year old Portsmouth, Hampshire native Albert E. Robbins, who
was employed as a Commercial Traveller.

ROGERS, LEONARD NEVILLE. Captain.
1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, attached to the 18th (Service) Battalion,
Northumberland Fusiliers.
Died 11 April 1917. Aged 38.
Born 29 October 1878.
Fourth son of Anne Catherine Rogers of “Danehurst,” Sea Road, Westgate-on-
Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and of the late William Bennett Rogers J.P.
Also commemorated on a stained glass window, in the parish church of St.
Saviours, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Leonard was baptised at the parish church of St. Marys, Balham, Surrey on 3
December 1878. He was educated at Marlborough College, Wiltshire from 1895.
He excelled in many sports, and has an entry in the Wisden Cricketers
Obituaries, which records him as being a “Brilliant bat, fine field and useful
change bowler. He failed against Rugby at Lord’s, but had an average of 29.
Marlborough Blues XI. Rugby football for Surrey.” Prior to enlisting for military
service, Leonard worked as a Chartered Surveyor, F.S.I., F.A.I., and was a
partner in Rogers, Chapman & Thomas of 78, Gloucester Road, South
Kensington, London, and 50, Belgrade Road, Westminster, London. From 25
January 1915, Leonard served in the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps, and
was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Northumberland Fusiliers on 4
May 1915. On 16 September 1916 he was posted to serve in France with the 1st
Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. At the time of his death from the wounds he
received in the Battle of Arras, Leonard’s home address was at The Knoll, 23,
Upper Richmond Road, East Putney, London, SE15. On Tuesday 13 September
1921, Major Vivian B. Rogers of 50, Belgrade Road, Westminster, London
submitted a formal application to be furnished with the medals of his late brother
Leonard. It would appear that the medals were eventually sent to another
brother; Arthur Norman Rogers of The Knoll, 23, Upper Richmond Road, East
Putney, London, SE15, who was Leather Merchant. Leonard’s father; William
Bennett Rogers who died on Saturday 25 March 1916, was the founder of the
firm Rogers, Chapman & Thomas, Auctioneers & Surveyors.
HAYES-SADLER, ERNEST REGINALD. Captain.
2nd/8th Battalion, 8th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Amy.
Died 30 October 1914. Aged 36.
Born 4 September 1878.
Second son of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Hayes-Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B.
Husband of Eleanor Louisa Cornelia Hayes-Sadler (née Tollemache).
Buried Laventie Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France.
Grave Ref: IV. G. 7.

On the completion of his studies as a Gentlemen Cadet at the Royal Military
College, Ernest was appointment to the on the Unattached List as a Second
Lieutenant, with a view to service in the Indian Army. Details of Ernest’s
appointment were published in The London Gazette, dated 20 July 1898. On 9
October 1899 he was posted to the Indian Staff Corps, and was promoted to the
rank of Lieutenant in the Indian Army on 20 October 1900, and to a Captain on
20 July 1907. During his army career, Ernest had served as an Aide-de-Camp to
his father Sir James Hayes-Sadler, when Sir James had been the first Governor
and Commander-in-Chief, East Africa Protectorate. He was awarded the Africa
General Service Medal with the bars Nandi 1905-06, and East Africa Somalia
1908-10. Sir James also later served as the Governor of the Windward Islands
from 1909 to 1914. In 1914, Ernest married Miss Eleanor Louisa Cornelia
Tollemache, who was the eldest daughter of Arthur Frederick Churchill
Tollemache and Susan Eleanor Tollemache (née Campbell) of The Red House,
Cuthbert Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Ernest’s brother in law;
Second Lieutenant Arthur Tollemache, also died during the Great War and is
commemorated on the Westgate-on-Sea, British Legion war memorial. Ernest
was killed in action to the east of Festubert on 30 October 1914. On the day that
Ernest fell; Indian troops that arrived to the east of Festubert found that the
Germans had driven back the 8th Gurkha Rifles, and occupied part of their
trenches. A formation which was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Charles
Richard Jebb D.S.O. of the 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, and comprised
soldiers of the 4th Battalion, Duke of Wellington’s (West Riding Regiment), 1st
Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, plus four Indian Army battalions which were the
8th Gurkha Rifles, 58th Wilde’s Rifles, 107th Pioneers, and 41st Dogras,
encountered some difficulty in ascertaining which trenches were occupied by the
enemy, as German soldiers called out ‘We are Gurkhas,’ and it was impossible to
see in the dark. By the end of the day the line was eventually re-established. It
seems rather odd that whilst Ernest has quite properly been commemorated on
the Westgate-on-Sea, British Legion War memorial, his younger brother
Lieutenant Edwin James Berkley Hayes-Sadler, of the Royal Engineers who fell
on 28 October 1914, aged 27. Edwin was born on 1 October 1887, and had been
gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers on 31 December 1906.
He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 6 January 1909, and served from
18 December 1909 to 9 October 1911, as an Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Sir
James Ronald Leslie Macdonald, K.C.I.E., C.B., (ex Royal Engineers), the
General Officer Commanding Mauritius. Edwin is commemorated on the Le
Touret Memorial, Le Touret Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 1.
SANDWELL, VICTOR THOMAS. Serjeant, 40163.
12th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. (Mid Antrim Volunteers).
Born and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Thomas Frank Sandwell and Sarah Ann Sandwell (née Coles) of 16, Adrian Square, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on page of Ireland’s Memorial Records 1914-1918, but with his rank shown as a Lance Corporal, as opposed to Serjeant.
Formerly Private, G/1630 & G/13535, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). At the time of the 1901 census, the Sandwell family resided at 1, Princes Terrace, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 33 year old Birchington, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Thomas Frank Sandwell, who was employed as a Life Insurance Agent. At the time of Victor’s death, his father was as on the earlier census, still a Life Insurance Agent, and had an office at 2, Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea. Nieuwerkerke where Victor is at rest (also known as Neuve-Eglise) was captured by the Germans on 14 April 1918, after a stubborn defence by the 49th (West Riding) and 33rd Divisions, and remained in their hands until it was retaken on 2 September 1918, by the 36th (Ulster) Division to which Victor’s battalion belonged. During the Advance in the Lys Valley (Second Phase) of 1 September to 6 September 1918, Neuve Eglise was clearly the key of the position, and orders were issued on 1 September for an attack on the height next day by the 36th Division. The 29th Division was also ordered to take part in the planned advance, with the 88th Brigade of that division being brought up on the left flank to keep touch with the Ulstermen. The early stages of the attack on the village met with stiff German resistance, but following the personal reconnaissance which was carried out by a Brigadier, he was able to secure artillery support for the attacking infantry, which was a contributory factor in the ultimate capture of Neuve-Eglise, but had doubtless saved many lives of the infantrymen who took part in the assault on the entrenched enemy positions. The churchyard at Neuve-Eglise was used by field ambulances and fighting units at intervals during the Great War, particularly in the early days by the Cavalry and the 5th Division. During the September 1918 capture of Neuve-Eglise, the village church was used as a Regimental Aid Post by the 12th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, and other units of the 36th (Ulster) Division. On the night of Tuesday 3 September 1918, Victor’s surviving former comrades in his battalion were relieved by the soldiers of the then dismounted, 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers which were commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P.E. Kelly. Victor is numbered amongst the 13 members of the 12th (Service) Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles who fell near Neuve-Eglise on 2 and 3 September 1918, who are at rest at Nieuwerkerke (Neuve-Eglise) Churchyard. Whilst by no means unique, but most of the final resting places of the 13 soldiers are within kerbed plots, which are in addition to the normal Imperial/Commonwealth War Graves Commission regulation headstones.

At the time of the 1901 census, 20 year old Robert was serving as an Able Bodied Seaman onboard H.M.S. Speedy at Malta. At the completing 9 years service in the Royal Navy, in 1906 Robert had joined the Royal Naval Reserve, and had been recalled for full time service only three days after the commencement of the Great War. 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 peacetime 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 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 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.
SOLLY, GEORGE CHARLES LEDNOR. Lance Corporal, G/3906.
6th (Service) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 9 April 1917. Aged 36.
Born Staple, Sandwich, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Thomas Solly and Mary Ann Solly (née Potts) of White Cottage, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Husband of Edith Solly (née Marsh) of White Hart Cottage, Crow Hill, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 2, and on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial.
At the time of the 1901 census, George and his wife resided at 4, Forge Cottages, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent. George was recorded as being the head of the house, and employed as a Carter for a Builder. George married Miss Edith Marsh on Sunday 5 August 1900, at the parish church of St James, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent. He was posted to France on Tuesday 1 June 1915, at which time he was serving as a Private in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). The following record of the events on the day on which George 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., 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 disorganised, 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."

STAVELEY, MILES. M.C. Major.
340th Battery, 44th (Howitzer) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died Sunday 29 September 1918.
Born Belgravia, London.
Buried Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: I. C. 38.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Staveley family resided at 13, South Eaton Place, Belgravia, London, SW1. Head of the house was 37 year old Kensington, London native William Henry Charles Staveley, who was a Medical Practitioner. Miles was initially educated at the New Beacon Preparatory School, Britains Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, where he was a contemporary of the Great War Poet, Siegfried Sassoon. After leaving New Beacon Preparatory School, Miles went to Tonbridge School, Kent in September 1908, where he remained until 1912 as a member of Judd House. Whilst at Tonbridge School, in June 1910 Miles was awarded the 1st Foundation Scholarship, and went into the Army Class from the Upper Fifth in January 1911. In June 1912, Miles was successful in the Woolwich Examination and left Tonbridge School at the end of the term, having been a Corporal in the Officers Training Corps. He went on to study at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, Kent, and during his time spent at Woolwich, Miles had represented the Academy at fencing. His father was an International fencer, who had represented England in the Epée team in Paris, and also at the Crystal Palace in 1904. In 1908 Miles father had been the Director of Foils and President of the judges, in the final of the Epée Competition at the Olympic Games in 1908. William Henry Charles Staveley died in 1911. Miles was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery on Friday 17 July 1914. He was first posted to France in November 1914. On Thursday 11 March 1915 whilst serving with the 3rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery, Miles was wounded in his right shoulder at Neuve Chapelle. The day prior to his wounding, Miles had been chosen by his Battery Commander to observe the enemy and direct the fire of his guns, from a trench manned by infantry, which was only some 65 yards away from the nearest German trenches. Early the next day he advanced with the infantry from the forward trenches, under fire from enemy artillery and small arms fire. Having successfully an Observation Post, it later became necessary for Miles to establish contact with fellow Royal Field Artillery officer, Second Lieutenant Alan Hornby (later Major M.C.). Miles left his position in order to find Alan Hornby, but it whilst attempting to find him that he was hit in his shoulder by an enemy bullet. Eventually he managed to take refuge in a trench occupied by soldiers of the Bedfordshire Regiment, who tended his wound, and later a Private of the regiment assisted Miles back to his gun lines. For their actions on Thursday 11 March 1915 Miles Staveley and Alan Hornby were both Mentioned in Despatches, details of which were shown on page 209 of The London Gazette dated Thursday 4 January 1917. As the result of his wounding, Miles was evacuated back to England for additional medical treatment. After his recovery, Miles was posted to serve with the 29th Division at Gallipoli where he remained until being evacuated in January 1916. On returning to France, Miles was promoted to an Acting Captain and given command of a Battery of the Royal Field Artillery. In H.M. the King's Birthday Honours on Sunday 3 June 1917, Miles was awarded the Military Cross. On Saturday 3 November 1917 he was promoted to the rank of Captain and to an Acting Major on Tuesday 4 June 1918. Following his final promotion, Miles was placed in command of the 340th Battery, 44th (Howitzer) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Throughout virtually the whole of the time which Miles spent in action, there are several recorded specific incidents.
which relate to his courage, including those which occurred near the end of his life. Near the Somme village of Templeux-le-Gerrard on Wednesday 18 September 1918, the 340th Battery was in a forward position about 250 yards behind the front line trenches. The guns of the 44th and the 104th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery were supporting the battalions of the 230th Brigade, 74th (Yeomanry) Division at Templeux-le-Gerrard as part of the overall ‘Battle of Epéhy.’ Prior to the attack on Templeux-le-Gerrard, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Chetwode Robertson, who was commanding the 44th and the 104th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, had stressed that it was imperative that the fire from his guns should be constantly maintained throughout the day of Wednesday 18 September 1918. Throughout the day at Templeux-le-Gerrard, Miles is recorded as having coolly walked about his guns encouraging the detachments. At one point in the day, a German 5.9mm shell landed in the battery area which set fire to the ammunition for one of the guns. Miles immediately ran to the fire and started to extinguish the flames and drag ammunition clear; he was then joined by other gunners who were encouraged by his fearless example, and between them they managed to save the situation. By the end of the day on Wednesday 18 September 1918, Templeux-le-Gerrard was retaken by the 15th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment of the 230th Brigade, 74th (Yeomanry) Division. On Saturday 28 September 1918 near Epéhy, Miles had an arm and a leg broken by an exploding shell, which also severed an artery. Wounded by the same shell had been his Battery Sergeant Major, and although Miles was losing a lot of blood, he had point blank refused treatment for his wounds until the B.S.M. was taken for treatment at the Dressing Station by the one available stretcher. When both men had been taken to the Dressing Station, Miles had again insisted that the Warrant Officer was treated before he was. Probably Miles’s insistence had resulted in the saving of the life of his Battery Sergeant Major, but it had been at the cost of his own. Miles died of his wounds at the Casualty Clearing Station early in the morning of Sunday 29 September 1918, and he was laid to rest at the small village of Doign on the eastern outskirts of Peronne, Somme, France. A special Brigade Order which was posted shortly after Miles had died, stated that he displayed “most admirable self-sacrifice and gallantry.” Following his death, a concerted effort was made by his superior officers for Miles to be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross, which was not in respect of his gallantry on any one particular date, but for his heroism on numerous occasions. Although all the necessary criteria for the award of the Victoria Cross were met in full, but no V.C. was awarded to Miles, who in addition to having been awarded the Military Cross; he had also been Mentioned in Despatches on three separate occasions. Amongst the plethora of letters of condolence which his mother received following Miles’s death were those from his Divisional Commander, and his Brigade Commander, both of whom had also attempted to get a posthumous Victoria Cross for Miles. Part of the letter from the Divisional Commander said:-“No finer example of courage, determination and devotion to duty could have been set by any man. His fearless leadership was most inspiring to all who came in contact with him. I looked upon him as one of my most valuable and reliable officers. The following extract of the Brigade
Commander’s letter is arguably even more moving:-“There surely never was a more fearless, gallant and modest soldier than Miles Staveley. We all loved him. His personality was delightful, buoyant and inspiring. His loss caused such sorrow and dismay as only silence can express. In 28 years service, of all the gallant men I have ever known, I have never found a more perfect pattern of an officer and a gentleman. It was good for us all to have had him with us.” An extract of a letter of condolence written by a Sergeant who had served with Miles said:—“His calm ‘Carry on lads!’ cooled our nerves and gave us all the confidence of which we were in need.”

STOKES, ERNEST ALFRED. Rifleman, C/6292.
18th (Service) Battalion, (Arts and Crafts) King’s Royal Rifle Corps.
Died Tuesday 10 October 1916. Aged 18.
Born and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Thomas Alfred Stokes and Emma Stokes of 2, Richborough Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Stokes family resided at 2, Richborough Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 35 year old South Norwood, Surrey native Thomas Alfred Stokes, who was employed as a Paper Hanger. Ernest enlisted in the army ‘For the Duration of the War,’ on Wednesday 7 July 1915. When he enlisted, Ernest stated that he was 19 years and 3 months old, and was employed as a House Decorator. Prior to enlisting he was employed by Alfred Goodwin Lockwood & Co. Builders of The Grove, Grove Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Following his enlistment, Ernest joined the 18th (Service) Battalion, (Arts and Crafts) King’s Royal Rifle Corps at Gidea Park, Essex on Monday 12 July 1915, in which he had been attested to serve. Ernest was posted to France on Sunday 21 May 1916 for service with the British Expeditionary Force. Ernest’s battalion did not take part in the early actions which were fought as part of the overall ‘Battle of the Somme 1916.’ As part of the 122nd Brigade, 41st Division, the 18th (Service) Battalion, (Arts and Crafts) King’s Royal Rifle Corps left Bailleul, Nord, France, on Thursday 24 August 1916 and went to Longpré-les-Corps-Saints on the banks of the river Somme, which is located some 12 miles to the southeast of the Somme town of Abbeville. After making a succession of moves in the Somme area, Ernest’s battalion moved into ‘Tea Trench’ which was located in front of Delville Wood at the village of Longueval on Thursday 14 September 1916. The following day the battalion was ordered to take part in attack in the direction of the village of Flers. As part of the orders issued to the battalion prior to the attack on Friday 15 September 1916, was the following:-“Battalion is instructed to ‘push home their attack with vigour.” “The enemy’s morale is known to be shaken.” Immediately prior to zero hour, a shell dropped amongst Ernest’s battalion which killed the Commanding Officer; 36 year old Lieutenant- Colonel Charles Peter Marten, of the 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales’s Own), commanding the 18th (Service) Battalion, (Arts and Crafts) King’s Royal Rifle
Corps. Charles was the son of Captain S. W. Marten (East Kent Militia) and Mrs. B. L. Marten, of Shalmsford Bridge Manor, Chartham, Canterbury, Kent. In addition to killing Charles Marten, the shell also killed the battalion Adjutant and 2 other officers. Despite the early setback, Ernest’s battalion went on to carry out all of what it had been asked, but in doing so suffered a total of in excess of 350 casualties. Having survived the attack of Friday 15 September 1916, and other less costly subsequent engagements with the enemy, Ernest was numbered amongst the 50 other ranks in his battalion who died on Tuesday 10 October 1916, most of which fell at Carlton Trench near Mametz Wood. At least two other soldiers from the county of Kent, who were serving in the same battalion with Ernest, also fell on the same day as him; they were Sergeant Alfred William Henry Card from Goodnestone, Canterbury, Kent, and Corporal Charles Edwin Blackburn from Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Alfred and Charles, like a large number of those casualties who died with them have no known grave, and are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

STONEHAM, GREVILLE COPE. Second Lieutenant.
1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.
Died 14 November 1916.
Born Godstone, Surrey.
Son of Herbert Skyring Stoneham and Annie Laura Stoneham (née Cope) of “Liege,” Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Munich Trench British Cemetery, Beaumont-Hamel, Somme, France.
Grave Ref: B. 34.
Formerly Private, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). At the time of 1901 census, the Stoneham family resided at Godstone Court, Godstone, Surrey. Head of the house was 35 year old Greenwich, London native Herbert Skyring Stoneham, who was a Member of the London Stock Exchange. When Grenville was killed in action, his home address was at 25, Old Court Mansions, Kensington, W8. On the day that Grenville fell, his battalion was in action near the Somme village of Serre, where it took part in an attack from trenches which had been captured from the Germans, which were what was known as the “Green Line” which was in front of Vallade Trench. When the 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment had occupied the trenches, its strength was only a few officers and 435 other ranks, and it was assigned a broad front of eight hundred yards, with the King’s Royal Rifle Corps on its right. In support of each of the outer flanks of this line were two companies of the 23rd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) (1st Sportsmans). It had originally been intended to attack in four waves, but due primarily to the width of the front, it was found necessary to reduce them to two. At 0115 hours Grenville’s battalion began moving forward, and at 0500 hours it formed up, with its leading wave fifty yards in front of Beaumont Trench. The two halves of the battalion were ordered to move by their outer flanks which were held by the brigade to be justified, though it apparently created a gap between them. As the battalion moved across No Man’s Land, there were some casualties from German machine-gun fire, and the two right companies later reported that the British artillery barrage started short,
and had suffered casualties as the result of same. The 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment had 116 casualties amongst the 159 officers and other ranks who had left the Green Line. With such heavy losses as these, it is hardly surprising to find the battalion war diary entry recording that, by the time the right half-battalion reached the German trenches, it had not enough men to cope with the enemy there. The remains worked partly towards the directing right flank, and partly leftwards to keep in touch with the left half-battalion, so that the anticipated gap formed in the centre of the right half-battalion instead of between the two halves. Only approximately a dozen men of the leading wave of the right half reached Munich Trench, which had been their objective. Those who had been successful were led by Grenville and 19 year old Second Lieutenant (later Captain) Edward Dugdale D'Oyley Astley, and had managed to force their way through the German wire and into the trench. It was after getting into the enemy trench that Grenville and some of his men were killed. Edward Astley saw some German soldiers on the fire-step who were holding up their hands and surrendering. After taking the Germans prisoner, Edward left two of his men to guard them, he then went southwards along the trench in search of Grenville and his party, but unable to locate them he then returned to his own men. For his actions on the day that his friend Grenville fell, Edward Dugdale D'Oyley Astley was Mentioned in Despatches. Edward was a resident of Hungerford, Berkshire, was serving as a Captain in the 1st Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment when he fell on 1 June 1918. Grenville's younger brother Norman Cope Stoneham, who was born at Godstone, Surrey on 22 February 1897, served as a Captain in the 1/5th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment during the Great War, at which time his address was at "Ligne," Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.


At the time of the 1901 census, the Thurley family resided at 24, Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 46 year old Stockwell, London native Joseph Thurley, who was employed as a Warehouseman. Ansell has a brief entry in de Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour 1914-18, which record’s his parents address as being at 24, Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, where Joseph plied his trade as a Bootmaker. Prior to enlisting in the Royal Navy in 1908, Ansell had been employed by Percy F. Mosley at West Bay Garage, Cuthbert Road, Westgate-on-Sea, as a Cycle and Motor Mechanic. Please also see the brief commemoration in remembrance of Robert Saunders, appertaing to the loss of H.M.S. Hawke.
TOLLEMACHE, ARTHUR HENRY WILLIAM, Second Lieutenant.
Royal Engineers and 27 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps.
Died 19 July 1916.
Born Chelsea, London 5 April 1894.
Son of Arthur Frederick Churchill Tollemache and Susan Eleanor Tollemache (née Campbell) of “The Red House,” Cuthbert Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial, Faubourg-d’Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France.
Arthur was educated at Eton and from 1912 at Trinity College, Cambridge. Whilst he was still studying at Cambridge University, Arthur had volunteer for military service shortly after the commencement of the Great War, and was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in October 1914. He obtained his Royal Aero Club Aviators’ Certificate at the Military School, Shoreham on Sunday 1 August 1915 flying a Maurice Farman Biplane. On Wednesday 26 April 1916, Martinsyde G.100 machines of Arthur’s squadron engaged enemy pilots in the Pas de Calais region of France, during the course of which Australian Second Lieutenant Sydney Dalrymple drove off two of the German machines. Captain Cairns engaged one of the enemy over Souchez, and fired half a drum of ammunition at the German machine from a distance of about 70 yards; he then had to break off to avoid colliding with the machine he was attacking. He was then able to attack from behind, and emptied the remainder of his drum at the stricken machine. The Observer in the German machine had apparently been hit during the first attack, as during the second encounter he was seen to be kneeling in the turret, and doing nothing at all including returning fire. The machine that had been attacked by Captain Cairns was later attacked by Arthur from a range of only 50 yards, which resulted in the German machine being driven down towards Douvrin. It was whilst flying with other 27 Squadron, Martinsyde G.100’s which had included that being flown by Captain Cairns, that he and Arthur engaged an enemy Albatros on Friday 19 May 1916. The pair of Martinsyde G.100’s chased the Albatros to Fournes and engaged it, and the German machine was last seen going down out of control. The day after he and Captain Cairns had attacked the Albatros, Arthur was flying at 12,000 feet over Fromelles when he spotted another enemy Albatros about 3,000 feet below him. He dived on the Albatros until he got close to it before he opened fire, both
machines then dived at high speed with their engines on, and Arthur expended a full drum of ammunition during his attack. Arthur managed to change to a full drum before continuing his attack, as the Albatros pilot made a number of evasive maneuvers. At intervals Arthur managed to fire on the Albatros, and at about 4,000 feet over the southwest corner of the town of Lille, the two machines almost collided. To avoid a collision the German pilot skillfully turned on one wing and went down in a side slip and a vertical dive. The pilot of the Albatros managed to flatten out when he was almost at ground level near to the Citadel of Lille. On 19 July 1916 Arthur was flying a Martinsyde G.100 machine (No.7288) of 27 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, and failed to return from a bombing mission over the Somme. Initially Arthur was posted as ‘Missing Presumed Killed,’ but as the result of later reports which indicated that he had been brought down by the enemy near the town of Bapaume, for Official Purposes the Army Council made the decision that Arthur had died on or after Wednesday 19 July 1916. 27 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps was formed at Hounslow, Middlesex on Friday 5 November 1915, and soon being equipped with Martinsyde G.100 “Elephant” fighters, hence the use of an elephant as the 27 Squadron badge. It transferred to France early in 1916, but although initially using their aircraft as escort fighters, by the time the ‘Battle of the Somme 1916’ commenced it was clear that the “Elephant” was unsuitable as a fighter, and the squadron switched to a bomber-reconnaissance role, taking advantage of the Martinsyde's good range and load carrying capacity, and it out its first bombing mission on Saturday 1 July 1916, which was the first day of the Battle of the Somme. In his memory, Arthur’s parent’s later named their London home at St. James Street, London SW1, “Arthur.” Via his father’s blood-line Arthur was a descendent of King Henry VII. One of Arthur’s grandfather’s was William John Manners Tollemache, 9th Earl of Dysart (1859 – 1935), and his other grandfather was Rear-Admiral Harvey Henry Campbell C.V.O., R.N., who had been an Aide-de-Camp to H.M. King George V from Monday 20 March 1911 to Saturday 20 September 1913. A brother-in-law of Arthur, Captain Ernest Reginald Hayes-Sadler, who was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Hayes-Sadler, K.C.M.G., C.B., married Miss Eleanor Louisa Cornelia Tollemache in 1914. He was serving in the 2nd/8th Battalion, 8th Gurkha Rifles when he fell on Friday 30 October 1914, and is at rest at Laventie Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France. Another of Arthur’s brother-in-laws was Captain Guy Edward Pelham-Clinton M.C. (1894-1934), who married Miss Hermione Edith Agnes Tollemache on Tuesday 30 July 1918. Hermione’s eldest son Edward Charles Pelham-Clinton became the10th Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and her younger son Alastair Henry Pelham-Clinton was serving as a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve with 228 Squadron, Royal Air Force when he was killed in action over the Bay of Biscay on Monday 24 May 1943 at age 20. Of specific ‘Kent’ interest is that at the time of Arthur’s death on Wednesday 19 July 1916, his squadron was commanded by Amyas Eden Borton 1886-1869 who later became an Air Vice-Marshal C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C. and was a brother of a Kent Victoria Cross holder; Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Drummond Borton V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O.
TYLER, ALFRED HERBERT. Major.  
5th Field Company, Royal Engineers.  
Died 11 November 1914. Aged 43.  
Born Hampton Court, Middlesex January 1871.  
Son of the late Sir Henry Whatley Tyler M.P., R.E. and Margaret Tyler (née Pasley).  
Husband of Mrs. K. Tyler of “St. Martins,” Cuthbert Crescent, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  

At the time of the 1871 census, the Tyler family resided at High Elms, Hampton Court, Middlesex. Head of the house was 41 year old Mayfair, London native Henry Whatley Tyler, who was a retired Royal Engineers Captain. In view of Alfred’s age at the time of the census, it would seem likely that High Elms, Hampton Court, Middlesex was also where he was actually born. Alfred was baptised at the parish church of Hampton St. Mary, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey on 1 June 1871. At the time of Alfred’s baptism, his father was recorded as being an Inspector of Railways. He had enlisted in the Royal Engineers, and in 1851 was serving as a Lieutenant when he was called upon by Henry Cole to assist with the organisation of the Great Exhibition. In 1853 Henry Whatley Tyler was appointed an Inspecting Officer for Railways, a function normally carried out by Royal Engineers officers, and he held the position for twenty four years. His expertise was called upon not only in Great Britain, but also in various locations in Europe. In 1866 he was sent to inspect the railway systems of France and Italy, in order to determine how best to transfer mail destined for India from northern France to the Italian port of Brindisi. It was obvious that Alfred was following a family tradition by joining the Royal Engineers. Alfred was educated at Cheltenham College, Gloucestershire, and on the completion of his studies at Cheltenham, he went to the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, Kent, as a Gentleman Cadet. Alfred was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers on 25 July 1890, and on various anniversaries of the date of having being gazetted he received promotions. On 25 July 1893, Alfred was promoted to a Lieutenant, on 25 July 1901 to a Captain, and on 25 July 1910 to the rank of Major. Alfred took part in the operations in Sierra Leone 1898-99, which had included the Karene Expedition during the course of which he was wounded. During the Second Boer War of 1899-1902, Alfred served as a Special Service officer with the Rhodesian Field Force. From 10 January 1907 to 25 April 1912, Alfred was the 1st Assistant Building Works Director, at the Royal Woolwich Arsenal. At the time of his death, Alfred was commanding the 5th Field Company, Royal Engineers, engaged on Lines of Communication work with H.Q. No.1 Base. Alfred was a grandson of General Sir Charles Pasley, K.B.E., R.E. Alfred was also an uncle of 21 year old Greenwich, Kent native Lieutenant Albert Tyler, Royal Engineers who fell the day after Alfred, and is also commemorated on the Menin Gate on the same panel as Alfred. Albert was a son of Alfred’s late brother Colonel Henry E. Tyler R.E. Alfred’s sister was Margaret Lucy Tyler (1875–1943) who was one of the most influential homeopaths of all time.  

WALK, ERNEST JOHN. Lance Serjeant, G/6747.
10th (Service) Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), (Kent County).
Died 8 October 1916.
Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Frederick William Walk and Angela Walk (née Haismer) of 4a, Chester Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 C.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Walk family resided at 4a, Chester Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Frederick Walk, who was a Plasterer and an employer. When he was posted to serve in France (date unknown), Ernest was already a Lance Sergeant serving in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). It was noted whilst carrying out the research on Ernest, that there is a minor discrepancy in the two most relevant data sources accessed, i.e. that of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Soldiers Died in the Great War, regarding the exact date of Ernest's death. His Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details show the date as 8 October 1916. The relevant entry in Soldiers Died in the Great War shows Ernest's death of death as having occurred on Monday 9 October 1916. In view of the two conflicting dates, arguably it might be fair to assume that Ernest lost his life on the night of 8/9 October 1916. Having been kept in reserve during the day on Saturday 7 October 1916, the same evening Ernest's battalion moved up to the British front line, where it provided working parties during front line attack on an enemy position called Gird Trench. Despite the battalion being heavily shelled whilst on the front line position, it suffered less than a total of 100 casualties of different kinds which included the deaths of 3 other ranks on Sunday 8 October 1916, and that of an officer who was a former Canadian Expeditionary Force Private, Second Lieutenant Ivan Theobald Grant, and the deaths of another 13 other ranks on the following day. Ernest's elder brother Frederick Thomas Walk who resided with his wife Estelle Marie Walk (née Louis) at 4a, Chester Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, was employed by his father as a Plasterer, and he enlisted in the army at Herne Bay, Kent on Tuesday 5 December 1916. Frederick served in the Great War as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. He thankfully survived the carnage of the Great War, and was discharged to the "Z" Reserve on Tuesday 25 November 1919. Ernest places of birth, enlistment and residence as shown above, are as shown at his entry in Soldiers Died in the Great War. Whilst his place of birth in SDGW tallies with the relevant 1901 census entry which shows him as having been 9 years old at the time, and almost certainly his place of enlistment is correct, it would appear that his actual place of residence was probably actually at Westgate-on-Sea, as opposed to Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Thousands of entries in SDGW record casualties from smaller parishes and villages e.g. Westgate-on-Sea, are eroniously recorded as residing at their nearest (usually postal address) town.
WALLER, HORACE EDMUND. Private, 1530.
No.4 Company, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment).
Born London 16 April 1881.
Youngest son of John Edward Waller M.Inst.C.E. and of Annette Elizabeth Waller (née Naudé) of 172, Cromwell Road, Earl's Court, South Kensington, London, SW, and “The Nook,” Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on page 40 of the Canadian First World War Book of Remembrance.

At the time of the 1901 census, Horace was a pupil at the Towers School, Waterloo Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, where he was initially educated. Head of the house was the Headmaster 53 year old Charles J.M. Wanton. In 1867 Dr. Benson, Master of Wellington College, authorised Dr. J.W. Spurling, one of his assistant masters, to establish a preparatory school on a plot of College land. So Crowthorne Towers School was built in Waterloo Road, to the south-west of the parish church. Mr. Spurling was Headmaster from the establishment of the school, until his death in 1899, when he was replaced by Charles J.M. Wanton. In May 1905, Horace left Towers School and went to Tonbridge School, Kent, and was elected to a Foundation Scholarship in June the same year, and was a member of Manor House, and had served in the Cadet Corps until he left the school in 1908. After he left Tonbridge School, Horace studied in the Engineering Department at King’s College, London. Although some University Officers Training Corps can trace their origins back even earlier, the modern Officers Training Corps was founded during the Haldane Reforms in 1908, as the direct result of the critical shortage of officers which were noted during the Second Boer War (1899–1902). Horace’s arrival at King’s College in 1908 coincided with the time that the Officers Training Corps was formed there, and he became one of its earliest members. In 1910, Horace went to Canada where he was engaged in civil engineering work, the bulk of which was working on the Hydro Electric installation of the Algoma Central Railway at Steep Hills Falls, Ontario, and on the Government Survey of Strathcona Park, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Horace enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on 21 August 1914. At the time of his enlistment he stated that he was a Surveyor, unmarried, and that he had previously served for 3 years as a Sapper.
in the 1st Middlesex, Royal Engineers. After carrying out initial training in Canada, the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, sailed for England on 3 October 1914, and was comprised of the 1st to 17th Battalions, plus the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, which had included Horace. His battalion carried out more training on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, and at Winchester, Hampshire. On Sunday 4 December 1914, Horace sailed from Southampton with his regiment, which was in the first Canadian Contingent to take part in the actual fighting on the Western Front. Doubtless it was due to the fact that his mother was French, was the reason why Horace was bi-lingual and spoke French as fluently as he did English. As soon as his battalion had arrived in France his ability to speak fluent French, combined with skills as a Surveyor were immediately put to use, and Horace rendered invaluable service as he served as an interpreter and guide. As the direct result of spending prolonged periods in the trenches Horace developed Dysentery, and despite the efforts of a number of his officers and fellow other ranks, he refused to rest or not take his turn in the trenches, but as time went on he got progressively weaker. Finally on the morning of 4 February 1914, having worked all night in the trenches, Horace was compelled to fall out and seek medical help. He was immediately sent to a rest camp at the village of Boeschêpe, Nord, France near the Belgium border. The following day Horace was admitted to hospital at Boeschêpe, but despite the best efforts of the medical staff he died at the hospital two days after being admitted there. Following his death Horace was laid to rest in Boeschêpe churchyard, and his funeral with full military was that of a style which was usually accorded to quite senior officers. In addition to many officers and other ranks of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry who attended Horace's funeral, there were soldiers from other regiments present, a significant number of which were members of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Following his death, Horace's parents received many letters of condolence from officers and other ranks of his regiment, in addition to those from members of other units. Horace had served in No.4 Company, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment) from the time of his enlistment, and Lieutenant Colville Eyre Crabbe who had served with Horace from the time that he had first enlisted, was amongst those who wrote to John Edward and Annette Waller at 172, Cromwell Road, Earl's Court, South Kensington, London, SW. Part of Colville Crabbe's letter says: “I must tell you as one of his company officers how great a loss to No.4 he is. He was always an excellent soldier, and seemed to thoroughly realise how his superior education and position necessitated his being a good example, and in this he never failed. Since we have been actually fighting he was of great service as a company guide, and invariably showed the greatest courage and devotion to duty.” Sergeant Leonard Phillips also wrote to Horace’s parents, an extract of his letter says: “Everybody in No.4 Coy. And anybody in other companies who knew him join you in mourning the loss of one of the best little fellows that ever lived, and one whom I am very proud to have called a friend. He was the most popular man in the company.” The extract of a letter which was written by a fellow Private, reads: “He was a regimental guide; so his loss will be felt outside his Company and section, where he was universally liked, and will
leave a blank very hard to fill. He was always ready to do anything for anyone.”

The cemetery military cemetery at Méteren where Horace is now at rest is located to the rear of the civilian cemetery, and it was made in 1919 by the French authorities, who brought in Commonwealth, French and German graves from the neighbouring battlefields and from other cemeteries, which had probably included the earliest burials at Boeschepe churchyard, as after the Armistice, the French graves at Abeele Aerodrome Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, were removed from the cemetery to other burial grounds, and the resulting space was re-used to accommodate 25 Commonwealth burials which were from April to August 1918, that came from the French Extension of Boeschepe churchyard.

WARD, THOMAS CHARLES SHELVEY. Private, L/7880.
1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment).
Died 20 October 1914. Aged 27.
Born and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted London.
Husband of Louisa Ellen Ward (née Wainwright) of 7, Tichborne Street, Brighton, Sussex.
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Panel 2, as shown above.
At the time of the 1901 census, the Ward family resided at 5, Ethelbert Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 35 year old Kent native William Henry Ward, who was employed as a Painter. William’s wife was a native of Essex, and the eight Ward children who were at home on the night of the census were all recorded by the enumerator as being natives of Westgate-on-Sea, but Thomas was not at home on the night of the census. The L prefix on Thomas’s regimental number is indicative of him having been a regular soldier, and when combined with his date of death, it is probably fair to assume that he had been serving in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, at the commencement of the Great War. The battalion left Ireland on 12 August 1914 and after a not uneventful journey arrived at Cambridge on 19 August, and was billeted at Christ’s College. A move was made to Southampton, where on 7 September the battalion embarked on the SS Minneapolis prior to sailing for France the following day, arriving at the port of Harve on 9 September. Following the fall of the city of Antwerp on 9 October 1914, it allowed for the release of a vast amount of German troops, and depending on what publication is read, the actual numbers of soldiers that then became available for duty elsewhere vary wildly. Despite generally accepted as containing numerous errors, the book by Colonel R.S.H. Moody C.B., detailing the regiments’ contribution during the Great War, put the above number as 90,000, Colonel Moody also make mention that in addition to those enemy soldiers, four German Army Corps had also been brought from the Eastern Front to fight on the Western Front. With the mass of additional manpower available to
the German High Command, the British and French troops the enemy from post
the fall of Antwerp were vastly outnumbered. On 12 October 1914 the 1st
Battalion was relieved in their trenches on the Aisne by French troops, and
marched to the little village of Bazoches-sur-Vesles along with the 16th Brigade
of the 6th Division to which the battalion belonged, and entrained from Bazoches-
sur-Vesles to Cassel where they arrived the following day. The following is an
extract from the book ‘A Short History of the 6th Division August 1914-March
1919,’ by Major-General Thomas Owen Marden, C.B., C.M.G., who had
commanded the 6th Division from 21 August 1917. ‘The 16th Infantry Brigade
now rejoined the Division from the Aisne, and on the 18th October a
reconnaissance in force was ordered, which was brilliantly carried out. The Buffs
and Y. and L. on the right captured Radinghem without much opposition, and
advanced across a small plateau, 300 yards in width, towards the woods in which
stands the Château de Flandres. They here came under a heavy cross-fire of
machine-guns and shrapnel, and were counter-attacked and driven back. The
situation, however, was saved by Major Bayley's company of the Y. and L., which
had worked round on the left and threatened the flank of the counter-attack,
which thereon withdrew. The Y. and L. suffered considerable casualties in this
little action–Major Robertson being killed. Meanwhile the 18th Infantry Brigade
had captured Ennetières and the south end of Capingham, while the 17th
Infantry Brigade reached Prêmesques, but was unable to take Pérenchies. The
4th Division had not been able to cross the Lys north of Armentières, which
necessitated the 17th Infantry Brigade throwing back its flank to l'Epinette. On the
19th October the Division entrenched on the line it had won. To the right were
French cavalry and cyclists, covering the gap between the right of the III Corps
and the left of the I Corps near Aubers. The advance from Hazebrouck to the
ridge had occupied six days, and cost the Division some 750 casualties. On the
morning of the 20th October the Germans attacked very heavily on the whole
front. Fighting on a very extended front (five miles) and with very little in hand,
the Division was soon in difficulties, particularly on the exposed left flank, where
the Leinsters had their three left companies quickly driven in, and the situation at
midday was critical. One company with the machine-guns was able to hold on
until the afternoon at Mont de Prêmesques, and to withdraw under cover of
darkness, having inflicted heavy loss on the enemy. Meanwhile units of other
brigades were putting up a gallant fight against great odds, each unit generally
with one or both flanks unsupported. At Ennetières, which formed rather a
salient, the Sherwood Foresters held out all day, but were attacked at dusk by
three battalions and practically annihilated or captured, only the CO., Adjutant,
Q.M. and 250 other ranks remaining the next day. The Buffs, after a splendid
fight, were driven out of Radinghem, and by night the Division was practically
back on the line which it was to hold for the next few months, and on which the
German offensive of 1918 still found the British. Continuous unsuccessful
attempts to break through occurred till 31st October, when trench warfare set in.
Notable among these was the attack on the K.S.L.I. and Y. and L. on the 23rd
October, when 300 enemy dead were left in front of our trenches; on the 18th
Infantry Brigade on the night of the 27/28th October, when the enemy captured
the line, but was driven out by a counter-attack, in which the East Yorks specially distinguished themselves; and on the night of the 29/30th October, when the 19th Infantry Brigade lost some trenches, but counter-attacked successfully, and counted 200 German dead. The incident of Cpl. Forward, 1st The Buffs, is typical of the fierce fighting. On 30th October, when the O.C. machine-guns of The Buffs and all the team had been killed or wounded, this gallant N.C.O. continued to fire his gun until eventually wounded in five places, when he crawled back to report the situation. He was rewarded with the D.C.M. During the whole period, 20th to 30th October, the guns were woefully short of ammunition, and consequently a greater strain was thrown on the infantry.” Thomas was brother of William Henry Ward who is the following casualty briefly commemorated below.

WARD, WILLIAM HENRY. Corporal, 20515.
7th Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers.
Died 6 November 1918.
Born Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Husband of Eleanor A. Ward (née Phillips) of 25, Manor House, Marylebone Road, London.
Formerly Private, L/8838, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). William’s original regimental number is indicative of him having enlisted in The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) in 1908. As his medal card index for the Great War shows that he was serving as a Sapper in the 7th Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers, when he was posted overseas on Sunday 4 October 1914, for service in the British Expeditionary Force, it would tend to suggest that William had been a member of the corps prior to the commencement of the Great War. In view of the date of his posting overseas for service on the Western Front, William had probably taken part in the actions in Belgium, for which the 7th Divisional Signal Company, Royal Engineers was awarded the Battle Honour Ypres Monday 19 October 1914 – Sunday 22 November 1914, which was the first of the 21 it was awarded. Somewhat ironic is the fact that the last of the 21 Great War Battle Honours awarded to William’s Company was that of the Italian battle of Vittorio Veneto 24 October 1918 – 4 November 1918. William died of wounds on Wednesday 6 November 1918, unfortunately the date of his wounding has not been ascertained by the transcriber of these brief commemorations, but it might have been resultant of the ‘Battle of Vittorio Veneto’ Thursday 24 October 1918 – Sunday 3 November 1918. As William was recorded as being aged 10 by the enumerator, on the 1901 census entry which was referred to at the brief commemoration of his brother Thomas (above), it would be indicative of him having been about 27 years when he died in Italy. The marriage of William to Eleanor A. Phillips was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1917, which was obviously whilst he was back in England, which might of course be as the result of having been wounded, or simply during a period of home leave, which seems a far less likely explanation.
WASHINGTON, H. W. Arguably the closest match for this casualty is:
WASHINGTON, HERBERT ‘Bert’ JOSEPH. Private, 14552.
2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.
Died 4 September 1914. Aged 23.
Born Romford, Essex. Enlisted Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Walter Daniel Washington and Alice Maud Washington (née Potter) of
Queen Street, Romford, Essex.
Husband of Eliza Emily Washington (née Field) of 105, Ramsgate Road,
Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Guards Grave, Villers-Cotterêts Forest, Aisne, France. Grave Ref: 35.
Herbert is also commemorated on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war
memorial.
Unfortunately, Herbert was been commemorated on the Margate civic war
memorial as B. WASHINGTON, which was probably the result of him been
known by all and sundry as Bert, which is of course one of the common
shortened versions of his first Christian name. Regretably, it was noted that
Herbert or ‘Bet’ is not commemorated on the Romford, Essex civic war
memorial which is located in Coronation Gardens, Romford. At the time of the 1901
census, the Washington family resided at Nelson Place, Queen Street, Romford,
Essex. Head of the house was 27 year old Romford, Essex native Walter
Washington, who was employed as a House Painter. Alfred’s Grenadier Guards
regimental number is indicative of him having enlisted in the regiment in either
late 1909 or early 1910, with the former being the most likely. Unfortunately the
transcriber of these brief commemorations has been unable thus far to ascertain
if Alfred was serving as a regular soldier at the commencement of the Great War,
or as a recalled member of the Army Reserve. The 2nd Battalion, Grenadier
Guards was stationed at Wellington Barracks, London, as part of the 4th
(Guards) Brigade, 2nd Division, when the Great War commenced, and it is where
a not insignificant number of recalled reservists joined their former regiment.
Commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Noel Armar Lowry Corry D.S.O., the
battalion entrained at Nine Elms for Southampton on Wednesday 12 August
1914, and sailed for France from Southampton later the same day onboard the
6243 ton SS Cawdor Castle, which docked at the busy French port of Harve the
following day. To the north and north-east of the small town of Villers-Cotterêts is
a large forest through which the British I Corps marched on Tuesday 1
September 1914, during the period when the British Expeditionary Force fought
its rearward actions during the ‘Retreat from Mons.’ On Tuesday 1 September
1914, the British 4th (Guards) Brigade which was covering the withdrawal of the
2nd Division, came into contact with the leading units of the German III Corps on
the edge of the forest near Villers-Cotterêts, Aisne. The 2nd Battalion, Grenadier
Guards, 3rd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, and 1st Battalion, Irish Guards,
fought their way to Villers-Cotterets; the main action began about Rond de la
Reine, and Herbert’s battalion took up positions on the main road running east
and west through Rond de la Reine. The 4th (Guards) Brigade lost over 300
officers and other ranks during the actions which it fought in and around Villers-
Cotterets, but was eventually able to break away, and then continue the
withdrawal with mounting losses over the following days. From Villers-Cotterêts the battalion withdrew to Boursonne and covered the retreat of the 6th Brigade, it later fell back to Thury and then to La Villeneuve. At 0200 hours the next day the retreat continued, marching via Antilly, Betz, Puisieux, and Barzy to Meaux. Herbert’s battalion was able to withdraw across the river Marne at Trilport on 3 September, and then went to Pierre Levée via Montceaux. On the day that Herbert fell, his battalion had reached Les Laquais and then at dusk it made a move to Le Bertrant via Maisonnelles and Rouilly le Fay. A clearing on the main road at Villers-Cotterêts is now marked by the Guards Memorial. The Guards Grave is just south-west of the memorial on the south-east side of the main road, and was made originally by the inhabitants of Villers-Cotterêts, and was subsequently put nearly into its present form by the Irish Guards in November 1914. In need of more in-depth research, but when the Washington family had resided at Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent, it was probably at 1, Belmont Cottages, Belmont Road.

WATSON, JAMES WILLIAM. Private, T/201021.  
4th Battalion, (Territorial Force) The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), attached to the 46th (Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps.  
Died 30 May 1918. Aged 19.  
Born and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent.  
Nephew of Mrs. M. Moore of 10, Essex Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Bagneux British Cemetery, Gézaincourt, Somme, France.  
At the time of the 1901 census, James was recorded by the census enumerator as being a visitor at 10, Princess Terrace, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 28 year old Ospringe, Faversham, Kent native William Moore, who was employed as a Wine Merchant's Carman. William's wife was recorded as being Mary Moore, a 24 year old native of Boughton, Kent. Also recorded as residing at the same address was William's widowed mother-in-law; 61 year old Egerton, Ashford, Kent native Mary Tappenden. The marriage of a William James Moore to a Mary Tappenden was recorded as having taken place in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1899. Although purely supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and should therefore be viewed as such, but it would seem likely that the Mrs. M. Moore who is shown as being James’s aunt on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details, is Mary Moore (née Tappenden). The graves in Plot III, Row A at Bagneux British Cemetery which includes that of James's, were the victims of a German bombing raid which was carried out on the Citadel at Doullens, on the night of 29/30 May 1918 at which time it was in use as the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital. During the Allied retreat which resulted from the German Spring Offensive which commenced on Thursday 21 March 1918, Doullens became the natural clearing centre for a front of about 50 miles, and from that date until 10 July 1918,
approximately 93,000 casualties passed through the 3rd Canadian Stationary Hospital there. Doullens Citadel which housed the hospital lay well apart from the town, and was surrounded by fields. From the beginning it had been in use solely as a hospital, and there was no railway or military material in the vicinity. The bombing raid began a few minutes after midnight with a flare and bomb, the hospital operating theatre was destroyed by a direct hit killing those within it and setting the building alight. The hospital was struck when an operation was in process at the time. The two Surgeons who were performing the operation, three Nursing Sisters, four patients and 16 orderlies were killed, in addition to which a Nursing Sister and 13 other ranks were injured. In addition to James who was on attachment, as were 9 other orderlies who lost their lives during the raid, 3 other orderlies were serving members of the 46th (Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps. Following the Great War the buildings at Doullens Citadel became used as a home for delinquent girls. During the Second World War following the fall of France, the Germans took over the Citadel at Doullens and used it as one of internment camps for political prisoners.


At the time of the 1901 census, the Williams family resided at 13, Chester Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 40 year old Canterbury, Kent native Thomas Williams, who was employed as a Engine Stoker. Formerly Sergeant, 3832, Royal Flying Corps. Alfred was posted to France on 21 March 1915, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps on 5 April 1917. During the German Spring Offensive of 1918, the German advance on Amiens ended in the capture of the Somme village of Villers-Bretonneux by their tanks and infantry on 24 April. On the morning of the following day, the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, with units of the British 8th and 18th (Eastern) Divisions, had virtually surrounded Villers–Bretonneux. It took the rest of that day and into 26 April to completely secure the town and to establish a new front line east of it. The battle at Villers-Bretonneux was a remarkable achievement and a clear-cut success for the soldiers of the Australian Imperial Force, and the British troops. The battle marked the end of the great German Spring Offensive on the Somme which had begun so successfully on 21 March 1918. Quite properly and not unreasonably, history remembers the heroic and successful actions fought at Villers-Bretonneux in late April 1918, as being that by Australian forces. In addition to other Allied army units which took part, was that carried out by the airman who had played their part, mainly in a number of observational roles. On 25 April 1918, Alfred was the pilot of one of his squadrons Armstrong Whitworth FE8 machines (No.C8552), which was shot down by German Anti-Aircraft fire above the Somme village of
Cachy, 9 miles to the south-east of the town of Amiens, and near to the village of Villers-Bretonneux where he is now at rest. Grave VI. A. 10. at Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, is that of 21 year old Second Lieutenant Norman Bowden of West Bridgford, Nottingham, who was Alfred’s Observer and he was also killed. Norman belonged to the 8th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), attached to the Royal Air Force. Like William, Norman was also a former Sergeant having served in the (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), prior to being commissioned in the regiment on 30 October 1917. It would seem likely that the pairing of William and Norman had only happened fairly shortly prior to their deaths, as on most data sources checked, Norman Bowden is shown as being the Observer, flying with Second Lieutenant E.C. Grimes of 35 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from other burial grounds in the area, and from the battlefields. Plots I to XX were completed by 1920, and they contain mostly Australian graves, almost all of which are date from the period of March 1918 to August 1918. Alfred’s late father had died at Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent in 1911.

WILLIAMS, HERBERT HENRY. Private, 33711. 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died Saturday 12 May 1917. Aged 26. Born Northwood, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted Canterbury, Kent. Resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of Thomas Williams and Winifred Williams (née Gambrill) of Sacketts Hill, Farm Cottages, St. Peter's, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Husband of Bessie Williams (née Hogbin) of 4, High Street, Garlinge, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7, and on the Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial, also on the Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent civic war memorial. Formerly Sapper, 174199, Royal Engineers. At the time of the 1901 census, the Williams family resided at St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 34 year old St. Lawrence, Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Thomas Williams, who was employed as a Farm Labourer. The marriage of Herbert to Bessie Hogbin was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1914. At 2200hours on the night of 10 May 1917, Herbert’s battalion had started to relieve a battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, and the 12th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers in the front line opposite Fontaine, and the relief was completed by 0310hours on the morning of 11 May. Herbert has the unfortunate distinction of being the sole fatality suffered by the 6th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment on Saturday 12 May 1917, during a period which was quite quiet. On the night of 12 May, Second Lieutenant Lewis had patrolled the enemy front, and reported it as being normally held. At 2300hours on the day after Herbert was killed, his battalion was started to be relieved by the 10th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment and it was then withdrawn to reserve trenches which were located in the Hindenburg Line.
WILSON, EDWARD ARTHUR. Aircraftman 3rd Class, 406448. Royal Air Force. Died 28 October 1918. Aged 25. Born Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of William John Wilson and Ann Emily Wilson. Commemorated on the Karachi 1914-1918 War Memorial, Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan. At the time of the 1901 census, the Wilson family resided at 1, Brockley Road, Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was 41 year old Margate, Kent native William John Wilson, who was employed as a Carpenter. Basic research undertaken would tent to point to Edward as having died of an illness or a disease, as opposed to the result of any form of enemy action. The Karachi 1914-1918 War Memorial is located at the rear of the Karachi War Cemetery, Pakistan, opposite the entrance feature. The names of those who are commemorated on the memorial, are of the service personnel that served and died in Pakistan (formerly India) during the Great War, and who lie buried in civil and cantonment cemeteries, excluding those graves lying west of the river Indus.

WOODWARD, ALBERT JOHN. Private, S/216. 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Died Monday 12 April 1915. Aged 40. Born St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Enlisted and resided Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Son of Henry Francis B. and Harriett Mary Woodward (née Hodgman). Husband of Alice Woodward (née Apps) of 3, Quex Villas, Waterworks Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Buried Erquinghem-Lys Churchyard Extension, Erquinghem-Lys, Armentieres, Nord, France. Grave Ref: I. A. 6. At the time of the 1901 census, Albert’s parents resided at 5, Simmonds Cottages, Acol, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Head of the house was St. Peters, Isle of Thanet, Kent native Henry Francis B. Woodward, who was employed as a Florists Gardener. Prior to his original enlistment in the Rifle Brigade, Albert had been employed as an Agricultural Labourer by Frederick Swinford at Minster Abbey, Minster, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Albert married Miss Alice Apps at Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent on Sunday 31 July 1904, their marriage ceremony was conducted by the Reverend J. Lindsay. The witnesses to Albert and Alice’s marriage were E.C. Woodward and Esther Fairbrass. At the time of his death Albert was serving in the army as a recalled reservist, having previously completed 10 years service as a regular soldier in the Rifle Brigade, most of which had been spent serving in the 2nd Battalion. On the completion of his regular army engagement, Albert had resided at Florence Cottages, Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent, and had been employed as a Carman. Following his recall from the army reserve, Albert reenlisted for army service ‘For the Duration of the War’ on Friday 28 August 1914, at which time he stated that he was 39 years and 62 days old, and employed as a Carter. After being attested at Westgate-on-Sea, and having the opportunity of spending his final weekend at home with his
family and friends, Albert reported as ordered to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at the Regimental Depot, Canterbury, Kent on Monday 31 August 1914. On Wednesday 2 September 1914, Albert was posted to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) at The Citadel, Western Heights, Dover, Kent, where he then remained until being transferred to serve in the 1st Battalion of the regiment on Tuesday 9 February 1915, at which time he was also posted to serve in France with the British Expeditionary Force. Albert then continually served in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) until he died of wounds on Monday 12 April 1915, when his was the only death suffered by his battalion. He was particularly unfortunate to have fallen during a period of fairly low casualties suffered by the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). On Sunday 18 April 1915 a Casualty Form (Army Form B.103) was sent to the War Office, by the Commanding Officer of Albert’s battalion which contained the notification of his death from wounds. Although she had been sent an official letter of condolence from the War Office on Wednesday 28 April 1915 expressing sympathy, it was not until Monday 1 November 1915, that Albert’s widow was paid a pension by the army in respect of herself and her two daughters; they being Dorothy Ellen Woodward who was born at Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent on Saturday 10 June 1905, and another Margate native Elsie Edith Woodward who was born on Wednesday 18 March 1908. The village of Erquinghem-Lys where Albert is at rest is located just to the west of the town of Armentières it being close to the Belgian border, and since 1969 Erquinghem-Lys has been part of the Urban Community of Lille Métropole, which encompasses only the French part of the metropolitan area of Lille. Erquinghem-Lys was occupied by German forces early in October 1914, but it was then captured by the 1st Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry on Friday 16 October 1914. The village then remained in Allied hands until Wednesday 10 April 1918, when the 101st Infantry Brigade and the 1st/4th (Territorial Force) Battalion, Duke of Wellington’s, after a stubborn defence, evacuated the village during the great German offensive. Erquinghem-Lys was finally retaken in September 1918. The earliest Commonwealth burials at the village were made in two places in the churchyard itself, in October 1914-January 1915, but these 27 graves were moved into the extension (Plot II, Row G, and Plot III, Row G) in 1925, the churchyard being closed for burials. The churchyard extension was commenced in April 1915 with Albert being numbered amongst the earliest of those burials, and it was then used by various military units and Field Ambulances until April 1918 as the result of the Allied retreat during the 1918 German Spring Offensive. Burials were then continued down to the stream by the Germans (who also used the churchyard) in the summer of 1918, and in September and October 1918 during the period of the German retreat it was used again used for some Commonwealth burials. The extension where Albert is at rest now contains 558 Commonwealth burials of the Great War (eight of them unidentified) and 130 German burials, and unidentified Russian servicemen is also buried in the churchyard extension.
Second World War  
1939 – 1945

APPLEBY, TOM. Sergeant (Observer), 930962.  
Died 26 August 1941. Aged 27.  
Born Yorkshire.  
Son of Thomas Freeman Appleby and Harriet Ann Appleby (née Easingwood) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.  
Buried Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany.  

Tom’s birth was registered in the Settle, Yorkshire, Registration District during the second quarter of 1914. He was a former merchant seaman and been amongst the 38 survivors, when the unladen British Collier SS Watford was wrecked on 10 September 1932, when she became wedged on jagged rocks during a storm six miles east from Glace Bay, near the Northern Head of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Possibly it was the result of his maritime experiences, was the reason why Tom enlisted in the R.A.F. (V.R.), as opposed to serving at sea.  
Tom was amongst the six crew members of Wellington bomber T2514 BL-D, which was being flown by 20 year old Sergeant (Pilot) Donald Frederick Youldon of Lexden, Colchester, Essex, when it took off from R.A.F. Alconbury, Huntingdonshire at 2043 hours on 26 August 1941. The Wellington was in a force of 49 aircraft which were carrying out an attack on the German city of Karlsruhe, which is in south-west Germany near the French frontier. Tom’s was one of three aircraft that failed to return from the raid, another being Wellington bomber X9749 BL-J, which also belonged to 40 Squadron, Royal Air Force, and had taken off only two minutes after Tom’s aircraft. The cause of the loss of Wellington bomber T2541 BL-D has never been established, but it was thought that the particularly inclement weather might have been a contributory factor. The site of Rheinberg War Cemetery where Tom and the other members of his crew are at rest in adjacent graves, was chosen in April 1946 by the Army Graves Service for the assembly of Commonwealth graves recovered from numerous German cemeteries in the area. The majority of those now buried in the cemetery were airmen, whose graves were brought in from Köln, Dusseldorf, Krefeld, Munchen-Gladbach, Essen, Aachen and Dortmund. 40 Squadron, Royal Air Force arrived at R.A.F. Alconbury, Huntingdonshire equipped with its Wellington bombers in February 1941, and took part on night raids until the autumn of the same year. Targets attacked by the squadron were industrial targets in Germany, but in addition to which were those on the ships of the Kriegsmarine (German Navy), in a number of ports on the Atlantic coast of France. One notable operation in which the squadron took part in prior to Tom’s death was the massive daylight aerial attack by R.A.F. British Bomber Command aircraft on 24 July 1941 against the heavily defended port of Brest, where some of the principal German Navy battleships including the Prinz Eugen and the Gneisenau were undergoing repairs prior to the planned German attacks on Allied shipping.
BALDWIN, ERIC CHARLES. Private, 7674166.
5th (Territorial Army) Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Born Middlesex. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Charles Henry and Louisa Rosina Baldwin (née Cooper).
Husband of Muriel Louvain Baldwin of Margate, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Faenza War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: II. C. 20.
Also commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.
Formerly Private, Royal Army Pay Corps. Eric’s birth was registered in the Hendon, Middlesex, Registration District during the third quarter of 1919. During the middle of March 1945, the 5th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) as part of 36 Brigade, 78 Division serving in Italy, carried out a series of tours of duty on the river Senio to the north of Cotignola. It was in this area that Eric’s battalion, which at the time was comprised of 33 officers and 840 other ranks was temporarily attached to 11 Brigade on Sunday 8 April 1945, which was also the day prior to the commencement of the main offensive which was carried out by the British Eighth Army. During the opening phase of the offensive, 11 Brigade was tasked with holding a sector of the line which was located between the 8 Indian and 2 New Zealand Divisions during a converging attack on Lugo. Due to the unprecedented scale of the aerial bombardment which took place on the enemy positions on Monday 9 April, all of the attacking forward units of the Eighth Army were ordered to fall back before the bombing commenced, due to their close proximity to the German positions which were going to be bombed. Following the cessation of the bombing, and led by flame-throwers the Indian and New Zealand soldiers moved forward at 1920 hours, and the units of 11 Brigade resumed their former pre bombing raid positions. Intense fighting ensued throughout the night of Tuesday 10 April, but by dawn the following morning all German resistance on the river Senio had ceased. Eric’s battalion having cleared up the last of the last vestiges of enemy resistance on the right bank of the river, it was then ordered to cross the Senio and continue mopping up on the opposite bank. Having completed its allotted tasks, the battalion recrossed the river to a point just south of Bagnacavallo, where it remained until Thursday 12 April. As the result of the rapid progress which had been made by the assaulting divisions which had reached Lugo, and were well on the way to Santerno, the sappers who were working tirelessly could not construct sufficient bridges across the river Senio to allow the artillery and armour supporting the Indian and New Zealand troops and their transport, as well as the soldiers of the 78 Division. As soon as sufficient bridges had been constructed, the remainder of the 78 Division crossed the river to effect a concentration near Lugo. By the time that Eric’s battalion crossed, the 8 Indian and 2 New Zealand Divisions had already crossed the Santerno, and his brigade was sent up to the bridgehead which had been formed by the Indian and New Zealand divisions, and were ordered to extend the attack westwards supported by the 48th Royal Tank Regiment. Led by the 8th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the 36 Brigade, 78 Division made rapid strides during the attack, and by 2130 on Thursday 12 April 1945 Patrizio was captured, and the following morning the 6th Battalion, Queen’s Own Royal West
Kent Regiment, of the 36 Brigade fought a bitter struggle with enemy troops in the outskirts of the village of Conselice. Both battalions continued to engage with the Germans relentlessly throughout the day, and it was not until 2330 hours that the 5th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) which had arrived from Lugo twelve hours previously, was able to get forward to carry out its orders to cut the Conselice to Chiesanova road. When the battalion commenced the advance in order to comply with the order, it did so under heavy mortar fire during the course of which it inevitably sustained casualties. Although the transcriber of these brief commemorations has not sighted any supporting documentation such as a casualty card and/or returns, it would seem likely that it was during the early stages of the advance that Eric fell, being numbered amongst the German mortar victims. His battalion was ultimately successful on Friday 13 April 1945, and by 0300 hours the following day, not only had all designated objectives been taken but “C” Company had pushed forward, and had established itself 1,000 yards to the west of Chiesanova. Following the fall of Rome to the Allies in June 1944, the German retreat became ordered and successive stands were made on a series of defensive lines. In the northern Apennine mountains the last of these, the Gothic Line, was breached by the Allies during the Autumn campaign and the front inched forward as far as Ravenna in the Adriatic sector, but with divisions transferred to support the new offensive in France, and the Germans dug in to a number of key defensive positions, the Allied advance stalled as winter set in. The war cemetery at Faenza where Eric is at rest, was formed during these months for the burial of those who were killed in the static fighting before the Allied advance was renewed in April 1945, during the course of the latter being when Eric fell.

**BAX, SIDNEY GEORGE.** Leading Airman, C/SSX. 15409.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Hermes.
Died Thursday 16 May 1940. Aged 24.
Born Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of George Edward Bax and Beatrice Annie Bax (née Holmes) of 28, Elm Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Lee-on-Solent Memorial. Bay 1, Panel 4.
Sidney’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1916. Whilst he was serving as a member of 814 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm, Royal Navy, Sidney was killed in an air crash. Sidney was the other crew member of a Fairey Swordfish II which was being flown by Lieutenant (A), Edwin Austin Liversidge of Twickenham, Middlesex. Both men were killed when their aircraft dived into sea whilst carrying out a dummy attack on H.M.S. Hermes, during exercises by aircraft from the aircraft carrier H.M.S. Hermes off the coast of Freetown, South Africa. A second Swordfish of 814 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm was also lost the same day as Sidney and Edwin, when it crash landed on the shore. Lieutenant (A), Edwin Austin Liversidge is also commemorated on the same bay and panel of the Lee-on-Solent Memorial as Sidney.
BUSHELL, DOUGLAS. Ordinary Seaman, C/JX 201597. 
Royal Navy, H.M. Submarine Undaunted. 
Died 13 May 1941. Aged 23. 
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 44. Column 2, as shown above.
Douglas’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1918, and his mothers’ maiden name was Walker. At the time of her loss the U class submarine H.M./S. Undaunted was being commanded by 29 year old James Lees Livesey, R.N. She had sailed from Malta on 1 May 1941 for a patrol of the coast of Tripoli, Libya, and was due to return to Malta on 11 May, but she failed to do so and is presumed to have been lost on mines. It is also possible that she was sunk by the Italian Regina Maris Torpedo boat Pegaso which had sailed from Tripoli on 12 May. At 2030 hours that evening the Pegaso signalled that she had attacked a submarine with depth charges off Zuara, Libya, and that a large patch of oil had been observed, which was an indication of the submarines destruction. Against this theory is the fact that by that date H.M./S. Undaunted should have been back at Malta, but it is possible that a decision to remain at sea longer had been taken, or of course that she may have suffered mechanical problems preventing her return. The Roll of Honour for H.M. Submarine Undaunted was published in The Times on Wednesday 30 July 1941, along with that for H.M. Submarines Usk, the destroyer H.M.S. Mashona, and the sloop H.M.S. Grimsby.

CLARK, FREDERICK CHARLES. Lance Bombardier, 1754481. 
49 Coast Observer Detachment, Royal Artillery. 
Died 1 December 1943. Aged 35. 
Born Thanet, Kent. Resided Middlesex. 
Charles’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1908. Frederick was one of the allied prisoners of war and natives who died whilst working on the infamous Burma-Siam Railway, ‘The Railway of Death.’ During its construction, approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died and were buried along the railway. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 civilians also died in the course of the project, chiefly forced labour brought from Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, or conscripted in Siam (Thailand) and Burma (Myanmar). Two labour forces, one based in Siam and the other in Burma worked from opposite ends of the line towards the centre. The graves of those who died during the construction and maintenance of the Burma-Siam railway (except for the Americans, whose remains were repatriated) were transferred from camp burial grounds and isolated sites along the railway into three cemeteries at Chungkai and Kanchanaburi in Thailand, and at Thanbyuzayat in Myanmar. Chungkai where Frederick is at rest was one of the base camps on the railway, and it contained a hospital and church which were built by Allied prisoners of war. The war cemetery is the original burial ground started by the prisoners themselves, and the burials are mostly of men who died at the hospital.
COOK, SIDNEY CHARLES WILLIAM. Ordinary Seaman, P/JX 428951.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Penelope.
Died 18 February 1944. Aged 18.
Son of Sidney George and Mary Rose Cook, of Garlinge, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Sidney and 416 other crew members of the 5220 ton Arethusa class light cruiser H.M.S. Penelope perished, when the ship sunk immediately after being struck by two torpedoes fired from the German submarine U-410, which was commanded by the U-boat ‘ace’ Oberleutnant zur See, Horst-Arnold Fenski, off the coast of Anzio, Italy. The first torpedo struck H.M.S. Penelope in the after engine room, and was followed sixteen seconds later by a second one which hit in the after boiler room, causing her immediate sinking. The remarkable point of the attack by the U-410 is that the cruiser was making 26 knots when she was hit. As far as can be ascertained, this is a unique case in the history of submarine attacks during the Second World War, no other vessel running at such high speed was ever successfully attacked. 415 of the crew of H.M.S. Penelope, including the Captain went down with the ship, and there were 206 survivors. Commanding H.M.S. Penelope at the time of her loss was 46 year old Captain George D. Belben, D.S.O., D.S.C., A.M., (Twice Mentioned in Despatches) of Verwood, Dorsetshire.. The submarine commander Horst-Arnold Fenski survived the Second World War, a native of Königsberg, East Prussia he was only 46 years old when he died in Hamburg, Germany on 10 February 1965.

DOWLING, REGINALD VICTOR. Ordinary Seaman, C/LD/X 5094.
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, H.M.S. Whirlwind.
Died 5 July 1940. Aged 28.
Son of William and May Dowling of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 40, Column 3, as shown above.
Built by Swan Hunter and Wigham Richardson Ltd. of Wallsend-on-Tyne, H.M.S. Whirlwind was a 1188 ton Admiralty V&W class destroyer that was commissioned on 15 March 1918. Commanded by 39 year old Yorkshireman, Lieutenant Commander John Malcolm Rodgers, R.N., H.M.S. Whirlwind was hit by a G7e torpedo at 1826 hours, which was fired by the German submarine U-34, which was commanded by 35 year old Kapitänleutnant, Wilhelm Rollmann. Kapitänleutnant Rollmann reported that one torpedo had struck just under the destroyers bridge, and that the forepart of the ship sank immediately, but the rest of the ship stayed afloat for some time until she was sunk by H.M.S. Westcott. Wilhelm Rollmann had spotted Reginald’s ship at 1530 hours and missed her with two torpedoes at 1713 hours. H.M.S. Whirlwind sunk off the southwest coast of Ireland, when she was approximately 120 nautical miles off Lands End, Cornwall. Wilhelm Rollmann died in the North Atlantic on 5 November 1943 whilst commanding the U-848 which was on its first patrol. Lieutenant Commander John M. R. Rodgers was amongst the survivors of the sinking of H.M.S. Whirlwind, and retired as a Commander D.S.C., R.N. on 2 July 1946.
DUFF, ROBERT ALFRED. Leading Aircraftman, 1806617.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. No.1 Base Signals and Radar Unit.
Died 7 November 1944. Aged 21.
Son of Mrs. M. Duff (née Read) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Robert’s birth was registered in the Than, Kent, Registration District during the first quarter of 1923. On 7 November 1944, Robert was on the Landing Ship Tank (L.S.T. 420) which was carrying the main body of No.1 Base Signals and Radar Unit (B.S.R.U.) to Oostende (Ostend), when L.S.T. 420 hit a mine and sank when it was insight of the port of Oostende. A total of 14 officers and 224 other ranks were lost; as was 50 vehicles loaded with valuable electronic equipment. Regrettably, and doubtless due to how quickly the L.S.T. sunk, only 5 officers and 26 other ranks of the No.1 Base Signals and Radar Unit were saved. The total revised establishment of the No.1 Base Signals and Radar Unit was 303 personnel, and as such this tragic loss of life effectively wiped it out in one single tragic event. The loss which was exacerbated by the heavy seas which were running at the time, resulted in a not insignificant number of the bodies of personnel from Robert’s unit not being found, and they have all been commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. Robert has the unfortunate distinction of being numbered amongst the largest single incident resulting in loss of lives, that was suffered by any Specialist Radar Unit in the Second World War.

HAMBIDGE, HENRY WILLIAM COLLINGWOOD.
Aircraftman 2nd Class, 1268360.
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Died 22 October 1944. Aged 22.
Son of Henry William Hambidge and Patricia Marti Hambidge (née Catt) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Henry’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1921. Henry died whilst he was a prisoner of war in Japanese captivity, but thus far the transcriber of these brief commemorations has been unable to locate where, when or how he was captured. Ambon War Cemetery where Henry is at rest is situated on the Molucca Group of Islands. Ambon is a small Indonesian island, and the cemetery is to the north of Ambon Town, which is located on Laitimor Peninsula on the southern shore of Ambon Bay. It was sited on a former POW camp, which held prisoners of mixed nationalities, including British, Australian and Dutch. The prisoners were taken to Ambon, many from Java, to construct an airstrip, but it was heavily bombed by Allied Forces in 1943 and 1944. POW’s were buried in various camps throughout the island, but were later removed and reburied in the war cemetery. Soon after the Second World War the remains of prisoners of war from Haruku and other camps on the island were also removed to Ambon and in 1961, at the request of the Indonesian Government, 503 graves in Makassar War Cemetery on the island of Celebes were added to the cemetery.
JARMAN, ARTHUR PERCY. Major, 98796.
452 Battery, 86 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment.
Died 26 July 1944. Aged 52.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Alfred George Jarman and Eliza Flinn Jarman (née Brown) of 17, Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Husband of Phyllis Lilian Jarman (née Tannenbaum) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Bari War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: VII. C. 21.

At the age of 17, Arthur enlisted as a Private in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry on 15 February 1909 and at the time his discharge on 28 February 1919 he was a Serjeant. It would appear that Mrs. Phyllis Lilian Jarman, who Arthur married in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the third quarter of 1926, was his second wife. Arthur married Miss Elsie Harlow in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1916. The death of Mrs. Elsie Jarman aged 34, was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District in 1924. Prior to reenlisting for army service only a few days after the commencement of the Second World War, Arthur had been a partner in Alfred G. Jarman & Sons, Builders & Decorators of 17, Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. The company had originally been founded by his father, at which time Alfred George Jarman was a Decorator. In need of more in-depth research, but it would seem likely that Arthur had died from the effects of Malaria, whilst he was receiving treatment as a patient at the 98th British General Hospital at Bari, Italy.

JEFCOATE, BENJAMIN JELLICOE. Private, 4080112.
East Surrey Regiment.
Born and resided Glamorgan, Wales?
Son of Frank and Eve Jefcoate (née Welsh).
Husband of Florence Melita Jefcoate (née Pike).

Benjamin’s county of birth and residence as shown above, was as is recorded in/on “Soldiers Died in the Second World War 1939-45.” Whilst not on the scale of errors which are contained in/on “Soldiers Died in the Great War,” that of the Second World War is also known to contain errors. Mention is made of same because the transcriber of these brief commemorations has been unable to find a matching birth entry for Benjamin anywhere in Wales, during the period which would cover his birth, always assuming that he was aged 25 when he died, as is shown on his Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemoration details. It might also be of significance that the birth of a Benjamin J. Jefcoate was registered in the Hendon, Middlesex, Registration District during the first quarter of 1917. Benjamin’s marriage to Florence Melita Pike was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1937. He enlisted in the army soon after the commencement of the Second World War, and was attested to serve in the Monmouthshire Regiment. Benjamin initially served in the 3rd Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment which had been mobilized for war as
part of the 53rd (Welsh) Division in Northern Ireland. Benjamin’s battalion trained in Northern Ireland in 1940 and returned to England in November 1941. In the summer of 1942 it was transferred to the 11th Armoured Division and trained for armoured warfare. It was destined for active service in North Africa, and advance parties of the 3rd Battalion, Monmouthshire Regiment actually embarked, and they were lost to the regiment when this move was cancelled in England, at which time its personnel were dispersed to other regiments and corps which were requiring men for service in North Africa, and it would appear that it was then that Benjamin had been numbered amongst those who were transferred to the East Surrey Regiment. Whilst he was serving in the East Surrey Regiment, Benjamin was wounded in November 1942 during the final phase of the ‘Battle of El Alamein.’ During the summer of 1946, Benjamin’s widow Florence married David Jefcoate in the Isle of Thanet, Kent area. David was the younger brother of Benjamin, and he was born in Hendon, Middlesex area on 26 February 1921, and died at Chatham, Kent in June 1991 aged 70. Born on 6 July 1913, Florence Melita Jefcoate died in the Medway area of Kent in June 2000, aged 86.

JOHNSTONE, JOHN FREDERICK. Fusilier, 6466263.
2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died 29 April 1944. Aged 30.
Born South West London. Resided West Ewell, Surrey.
Buried Cassino War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: I. B. 15.
The transcriber of these brief commemorations has thus far been unable to ascertain the reason why John, and his brother Lance Serjeant, Patrick Johnstone who is the next casualty briefly commemorated below, used aliases when they enlisted and served in the army. ‘John’s’ real name was FREDERICK CASTLE. Prior to enlisting in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), he had resided at 521, Chessington Road, West Ewell, Surrey, which is near Horton Park. In need of far more in-depth and time consuming research, but initial data checks etcetera would tent to suggest that the Castle brothers were the sons of William Frederick Castle and Lucy Castle (née Ashlee). Whilst it was part of the British Expeditionary Force, ‘John’s’ battalion was engaged throughout the withdrawal through Belgium and France where the remnants were evacuated from Dunkirk. As part of the 12th Infantry Brigade, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) later served in North Africa and Italy, where it remained until going to serve in Greece on 15 December 1944. ‘John’ fell during ‘Battle of Monte Cassino’ 17 January 1944–18 May 1944. The Battle of Monte Cassino (also known as the Battle for Rome and the Battle for Cassino) was a costly series of four battles fought by the Allies during the Italian Campaign with the intention of breaking through the Winter Line and seizing the city of Rome. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) fought almost alongside each other at the ‘Battle of Monte Cassino,’ which was the first time that they had been reunited since 1919. The capture of Monte Cassino came at a high price, as the total British Eighth Army and American Fifth Army casualties spanning the period of the four Cassino battles, and the advance to capture Rome on 4 June numbered approximately 105,000.
JOHNSTONE, PATRICK. Lance Serjeant, 6467477.
2/5th (Territorial Army) Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).
Died 11 April 1945.
Born Kent. Resided Surrey.
Patrick, like his brother who is briefly commemorated above, had originally served in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). The performance by Fantail landing craft during an earlier operation, which had been carried by army commandos and Royal Marines across the southern part of Lake Comacchio to Comacchio spit, and that had caught the Germans by surprise, was a possible reason why it was Fantails that were used to carry the 169 British Infantry Brigade during Operation Impact. The detailed plan for 11 April 1945 had called for "A" and "B" Squadrons, of the 755 Tank Battalion, U.S. Army, carrying the 169 Infantry Brigade, which was composed of the 2/5th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), the 2/6th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), with the 2/7th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) in reserve, across the flooded area south of Lake Comacchio. The infantry objectives for the day were Longastrino and Menate, and which if successful it would advance the Allied front lines by three miles. At 0430 hours the 169 Infantry Brigade personnel began loading into the American Fantails on the Strada Della Ratta adjacent to the Fosso Reno Canal. For reasons which are unclear the loading and launch was held up, and that resulted in it being daylight as the Fantails were launched, instead of being well on the way. As the crossing was being made, not surprisingly many of the soldiers were fearful of being shelled in the column, but apparently the Germans observation was not as good as had been expected, in addition to which the smoke which had been laid, had cut down the enemy lookouts capability considerably. "A" and "B" Squadrons of the 755 Tank Battalion, launched at 0827 hours and 0837 hours respectively, and as such the British and Americans making the crossing with good reason were all very dubious as to any surprise being made by that time. Smoke parties had been stationed along the route to the landing sites to prevent observation of any movement on the water. The smoke proved to be very effective and they encountered no trouble or opposition, until the leading troop of "A" Squadron had nearly touched down on its landing site at 1005 hours. The infantry unloaded quickly and took prisoners even before the vehicles had stopped rolling. A M4 tank was parked beside a house on the beach, and had its crew been aware of the terrible vulnerability of the "Fantail," it could have knocked out several on the beach. However, the first troop of "A" Squadron put up a big bluff, and kept on moving right toward the tank with its .50 calibre machine guns and 20mm Oerlikons guns firing, and the German tank crew surrendered without a fight. Initial shell fire encountered was light, plus some mortars, and three of the "Fantails" were knocked out, two of which burned. As the beach head grew and the hours dragged by, German shell fire, small arms, and mortar fire got heavier, but "build-up" was completed that same day by nightfall. Unfortunately it has not been possible to find out exactly how Patrick died at Menate, but it was possibly when one of the American Fantails which had made the crossing had been hit.
LANCHBERY, PERCY FRANK. Private, 14641536.
5th (Territorial Army) Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died 19 May 1944. Aged 32.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Alice Lanchbery (née Matthews) and the late Horace John Lanchbery of
2, Suffolk Terrace, Linksfield Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Husband of Doris Mabel Lanchbery (née Storey) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of
Thanet, Kent.
Buried Cassino War Cemetery, Italy. Grave Ref: XI. J. 14.
Before joining the army Percy had served as a member of the Home Guard.
During the 'Battle of Monte Cassino' 17 January 1944–18 May 1944, the 5th
Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) as part of 36 Brigade, 78
Division suffered another bitter blow on the day that Percy fell, as amongst the
other fatalities was its Commanding Officer, 27 year old Lieutenant-Colonel
Geoffrey Max de Baillou Monk M.C. of the Middlesex Regiment who is at rest in
Cassino War Cemetery. On 15 May 1944, the 5th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal
East Kent Regiment) rejoined the 78 Division of the 8th Army, at which time it
was placed in a reserve position behind Mt. Trocchio, from where the battalion
moved forward on the morning of 17 May to San Angelo in Teodice, where it
received orders to relieve the 2nd London Rifles of 38 Brigade. Despite the
chaos which tanks, transport and a considerable amount of enemy shelling
caused, the battalion had completed the relief by 1700 hours. At 0400 hours the
next day, orders were received for Percy's battalion, with the 8th Battalion, Argyll
and Sutherland Highlanders on the right, and the 6th Battalion, Queen's Own
Royal West Kent Regiment in reserve, to push on 1,000 yards in the direction of
Aquino. A squadron of the 17th /21st Lancers tanks and the field guns of the
138th (City of London) Field Regiment, (Territorial Army) Royal Artillery
supported the infantry during the move, which encountered no enemy opposition
as its forces withdrew. Due to the lack of German opposition encountered, the
decision was then made to continue the advance further than had originally been
planned, the advance continued for another mile and a half when at 1830 hours,
orders were received that Aquino aerodrome was reported to be clear of the
enemy, and it was to be occupied as part of the advance. The only enemy
opposition which Percy's battalion encountered during the push to Aquino
aerodrome was in the form of self propelled guns which were driven off by the
17th/21st Lancers tanks. At 0100 hours on the day that Percy fell, Brigadier J.G.
James commanding the 36 Brigade, arrived at the headquarters of the 5th
Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), to issue the orders of the day to
all the officers, which was establish a bridgehead over the Forme d'Aquino which
was located to the north of where the battalion was then situated. The attack was
commence at first light with Percy's battalion moving on the right upon the
northern entrance to the village, and the 8th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland
Highlanders on the left upon the southern end. The 6th Battalion, Queen's Own
Royal West Kent Regiment was then to follow through and consolidate the
village. Supporting the move by 36 Brigade infantry battalions, were tanks of 11
Canadian Armoured Brigade which had a squadron detailed to support each
battalion, a medium battery of the Royal Artillery, and the 138th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which was to put down smoke in order to prevent enemy any observation from the north. The attack had been planned to commence at 0500 hours, but it proved to be far too short a time for the infantry battalions to get ready. A disastrous consequence of the delay resulted in the artillery element of the plan failing to coordinate with the movements of the infantry battalions, which did not get under way until an hour after had been planned. The infantry advance got under way a full hour after the artillery had commenced firing, one of the results of which was that the leading companies of Percy's battalion advanced shrouded in a thick mist. "C" Company advanced on the right and "D" Company on the left, the latter being led by Captain T. Dixon who was an attached officer of the Royal Sussex Regiment. Both companies were led by tanks across the aerodrome along the central axis of the advance, running north-west. On the far side of the aerodrome a slight change was necessary to bring the battalion on the northern edge of the village, the move was successfully accomplished by 0720 hours, at which point "C" Company personnel came under fire from enemy machine guns and snipers. Tanks of the 11 Canadian Armoured Brigade went forward to counter the enemy fire, and also moved out to the right of "D" Company to cover that flank whilst the advance continued. Unfortunately as the direct consequence of the delayed infantry start, the smoke screen dispersed and the mist lifted, which resulted in the attacking troops being in full view of the enemy forces in the surrounding hills. Inevitably the exposure of the advancing troops resulted in the Germans bringing a lot of ordnance of different types down on the battalions. Anti-tank guns and Nebelwerfers (towed rocket launchers), came into action from quite close range, and heavy artillery from the north of Route 6 shelled the battalions. Battalion H.Q. was heavily shelled, and the clearing of the smoke and mist allowed enemy machine gunners to intensify their fire against the soldiers of "C" Company, and also then opened fire on "D" Company. The supporting Canadian tanks were heavily engaged by German self-propelled guns and at least one Mark IV tank which quickly succeeded in reducing their numbers. The leading companies of Percy's battalion pushed on until it reached a screen of wired defences, through which Lieutenant B. McGrath gallantly led his platoon of "D" Company with no casualties. By 0900 hours the main advance had been a success, and consolidated. After visiting the forward area of the advance, the carrier of Colonel Monk was hit and he was killed instantly. Captain Pratt the signals officer was wounded by the shell, and all of the wireless operators were put out of action. The solitary shell resulted in all communication between the companies and with the brigade. It was largely thanks to the resource and initiative of Major Curtis R.A., of the 138th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, assisted by Major Solway R.A., of the supporting medium battery that the Battalion H.Q. was partially reorganised by 1130 hours, and contact with the companies restored. Due to the amount of casualties which the enemy were inflicted on the infantry, plus the fact that 9 of the supporting tanks had been put out of action, at 1300 hours Brigadier J.G. James called off the attack. Regrettably it has not been possible to ascertain when, where, or how Percy lost his life during the costly attack made by his battalion on 19 May 1944.
LYNAS, GEORGE. Sergeant, 1887601.
Royal Engineers.
Died 13 November 1944. Aged 49.
Born Yorkshire. Resided Canterbury, Kent.
Son of Elijah and Annie Lynas.
Husband of Florence Ethel Lynas of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
Buried Margate Cemetery, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section F. Grave 335.
Also commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial.
When he was 18 years old George emigrated to Canada, he sailed from Liverpool, Lancashire as a passenger onboard the 10,629 ton Allen Shipping Line vessel “Victorian.” The ship docked at Quebec on 7 May 1913, at which time George was a Labourer but intending to find employment as a Bricklayer in Canada. During the Great War George enlisted in the Canadian Army, and served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Although in need of more in-depth
further research, but it would seem likely that George remained in Canada during the Great War, and that he had been discharged prior to when the Canadian Army Medical Corps in which he served was redesignated The Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps on 3 November 1919. In October or November 1939 and by then aged 44, George again volunteered for military and later saw active service in France. He died of an illness as opposed to the result of enemy action on Saturday 13 November 1944, at the Garland Emergency Hospital, Carlisle, Cumberland.

Buried Margate Cemetery, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section F. Grave 345.

After attending Chatham House school in Ramsgate, Isle of Thanet, Kent, Dennis joined the Metropolitan Police on 28 May 1934 as a Divisional Clerical Assistant. Dennis was an outstanding athlete, and during the late 1930’s he regularly won the mile, half mile, one mile relay and the individual challenge cup at the annual Civil Service Athletics Association meetings. He also seems to have been virtually unbeatable in cross country events. He was only fifteen when he first ran at the White City coming second to the great Sydney Wooderson, holder of the world mile record. Although Dennis never actually ever beat Sydney Wooderson, but in their last race he lost to Sydney by only one fifth of a second. He was a member of Herne Hill Harriers and regularly represented his country in international events. Dennis married Nora Smith in the Isle of Thanet, Kent area during the fourth quarter of 1938. After Dennis was called up for duty with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve on 16 April 1940, he was an obvious choice to serve as a Physical Training Instructor, which is how he was initially employed by the Royal Air Force. Although he had excelled as a P.T.I., Sydney clearly thought that he could be better employed and of more use to the Allied war effort, by serving as an aircrew member, preferably as a pilot. After submitting a number of requests for transfer to flying duties which were rejected, eventually his superiors relented and after passing the requisite selection tests, approval was finally granted for his training as a pilot to commence. On 26 May 1943 Dennis joined the No.48 Flying Training Course at R.A.F. Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, as Sergeant (Pilot Under Training), 955979 R.A.F. (V.R.). The Operations Record Book for 13 June 1943 reads :- “Sergeant D. B. Pell, a pupil of No. 48 Course, killed as a result of a flying accident on the South Aerodrome. A Court of Inquiry was held.” His death was registered in the Sleaford, Lincolnshire, Registration District during the second quarter of 1943. Dennis was well known in the Westgate-on-Sea area, not simply due too his numerous athletic successes, but from quite a young age he had assisted his father William Henry Pell as a Saturday Boy, (and doubtless on other days), at his Family Butchers shop at 25, Westbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea.

PRICE, PERCY DOUGLAS. Stoker 1st Class, C/KX 90532.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Dasher.
Died Saturday 27 March 1943. Aged 23.
Son off Florence Hilda A. Price of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 72, Column 2, as shown above.

H.M.S. Dasher was built at Sun Shipbuilding, Chester, Pennsylvania., U.S.A., and laid down as the U.S. mercantile vessel ‘Rio de Janeiro.’ She was converted to an escort carrier on 12 April 1941 and named BAVG-5, after which she was transferred to the Royal Navy on her completion, and was commissioned 1 July 1942. She was basically similar to the ‘Archer’ Class, but differed sufficiently to
be regarded as a separate class. All in the class to which Percy’s ship belonged were converted in the U.S.A. from mercantile hulls. When Avenger and Biter first arrived in the United Kingdom they went immediately into dockyard hands to have their flight-decks lengthened by 42 feet to allow Swordfish aircraft to take off with a full load of weapons and fuel. H.M.S. Dasher supported the North African landings in November 1942. Which was the last time the Sea Hurricane aircraft was used during ‘Operation Torch,’ the amphibious assault on North Africa. Sea Hurricanes of 800 and 801 squadron flew off of H.M.S. Biter, while H.M.S. Dasher carried Sea Hurricanes of 835 squadron. The Sea Hurricanes were very successful in protecting the beachheads against the French, with five Dewoitine D.520s being shot down and a further 47 aircraft destroyed on the ground. Once the invasion had taken hold, the carriers withdrew, leaving the job of air cover to the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.A.F. Subsequently H.M.S. Dasher was destroyed by an accidental aviation fuel explosion in the river Clyde, off the Isle of Arran, Scotland on Saturday 27 March 1943, resulting in the deaths of 379 sailors including Percy. The wreck of H.M.S. Dasher is located in the Firth of Clyde, to the south of Little Cumbrae Island, Scotland.


Michael was educated at Hillside School, Reigate, Surrey, and afterwards he was a pupil at the King’s School, Canterbury, Kent from September 1931 to July 1936, where he was a member of Holme House. During his time spent at King’s School he obviously made quite a favourable impression on the staff, as he was a Head of House and a School Monitor. He was also a Sergeant in the Officer Training Corps, and had been the Editor of the school magazine The Cantuarian. After leaving King’s School, Michael entered the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincolnshire in 1936 as a non fee paying King’s Cadet to commence his officers training. Having successfully completed his studies and passed out from R.A.F. Cranwell as a Pilot Officer, Michael was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer on 30 January 1940. On 30 January 1941 was promoted to the rank of probationary Squadron Leader, and confirmed as such on 1 March 1942. During the Second World War, Michael saw active service on the North West and Burmese Frontiers of India, and for a year held a staff appointment at Air Headquarters in Delhi. From January 1944 he was placed in commanded 175 Squadron, Royal Air Force, which was subsequently commended for the part which it had played during the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944, when the squadron flew its Typhoon aircraft in a ground attack role. It was whilst he was
leading his squadron over Germany, flying one of his squadrons Typhoon’s (No.RB214 B) that the aircraft was seen to spin into the ground near the town of Hamm. Like doubtless the vast majority of Second World War aviators, before he was killed Michael had already had a number of ‘close shaves,’ but he had also been fortunate to survive an air accident on Tuesday 17 May 1938. He was flying a Hawker Audax on a cross country training flight at night when he became lost. The aircraft crashed at High Yedmandale Farm, Yedmandale Road, West Ayton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire at approximately 0030hours after Michael had parachuted from the Audax. High Yedmandale Farmhouse was badly damaged when the aircraft crashed into it, but fortunately the occupants; Albert Stonehouse, his wife, son and two daughters, all thankfully survived unscathed. The aircraft was heard circling above the area at around 2345 hours by the Stonehouse family and other members of the local populace. When Albert Stonehouse was awoken by the noise of the crash he went out of his bedroom, which was undamaged, and found the aircraft’s axle on his landing, and the wheels were on the staircase. Michael had landed safely about a mile and a half from the crash site; he was rushed back to High Yedmandale Farm by car having been unaware where his aircraft had actually come down. The aircraft that had been flying on Tuesday 17 May 1938 was built to contract 389427/35 by A.V. Roe Ltd at Chadderton, Derbyshire, and was delivered directly to 7 Flight Training School on 19 February 1936. It was transferred to the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell on 17 September 1936. It sustained category W/FA damage in the above incident and the wreckage was taken to R.A.F. Driffield, Yorkshire for assessment where it was struck off charge on 2 August 1938, by which time it had completed a total flying time of 399.55 hours. Michael had a total of 175 hours flying at the time of the crash, 55 of which had been on the Audax. Michael was a recipient of the (French) Croix de Guerre avec Palme.

SETTERFIELD, BERNARD LEWIS. Lieutenant. Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, H.M.S. President III. Died 23 December 1944. Aged 29. Born Isle of Thanet, Kent 1915. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Panel 86, as shown above. Bernard’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the last quarter of 1915. As H.M.S. President III was not a ship, but a Royal Naval shore base near London, which was the accounting base for Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships, it was initially something of a surprise to find that Bernard is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. Further research revealed that he had died from Coronary Thrombosis whilst he was serving at sea, which explained why he was commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. The transcriber of these brief commemorations has been somewhat frustrated at being unable to locate which ship Bernard was serving on at the time of his death, and yet again the ease at which British Great War deaths are to research, compared to those who died during or resultant of the Second World
During the research process, one of the facts which became patently clear, was the significant number of people with the surname Setterfield from the Isle of Thanet area of Kent had served in the Royal Navy and Merchant fleets during both of the world wars, and in some cases had served in both of the naval services. Bernard was one of the Isle of Thanet Setterfield’s who had served in both the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy. Whilst researching over the years, the transcriber of these brief commemorations has noted several Second World War Merchant Navy Commonwealth casualties, who were men that had previously served in a branch of the Royal Navy during the Great War, and as such, although by no means unique, it was something of a surprise to learn that Bernard was a pre Second World War British Merchant Navy officer, and that he had enlisted as a Royal Navy rating soon after the commencement of the war. In late 1941 Bernard was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and he later served as a Gunnery Officer on a number of Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships.


Henderson’s Manitoba and Northwest Territories Gazetteer and Directory for 1897, records Robert John James Shrimpton as being the Manager of the Manitoba Mortgage & Insurance Co., 228 Portage Avenue, 354 Donald Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. From April 1887 to August 1908, Robert was mentioned sixty five times in the Manitoba Morning Free Press, mainly as the result of his cricketing prowess. The last entry noted in the newspaper announced that his time in Winnipeg was imminent, when it reported that he had been appointed to be the Managing Director of the company at the Head Office in London, England. The newspaper also reported that had also been appointed a Director of the Manitoba Land Company Limited, and Secretary of the Kootenay Valleys Company Limited, and that he is engaged in other Canadian financial business at 46, Queen Victoria Street, London EC. Robert John James Shrimpton married Miss Marian Sampson on 10 September 1903 at Barnard Castle, County Durham. At the time of their marriage, Robert was recorded as being a Financial Agent from Addiscombe, Croydon, Surrey. Francis’s birth was registered in the Chertsey, Surrey, Registration District during the fourth quarter of 1912. He was the youngest of the four children of Robert and Marian Shrimpton, being one of their three sons. In August 1929, Francis, his mother and sister Ann Catherine Shrimpton then aged 18, arrived at the port of Southampton, Hampshire as passengers onboard the 22,181 ton Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ship “Alcantara,” having travelled from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Prior to moving to
“Penroche,” Port Isaac, Cornwall, Francis’s family had formerly resided at 3, Cuthbert Terrace, Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Francis’s late father; Peckham native Robert John James Shrimpton died of Chronic Intestinal Nephritis and Oedema of the Larynx, at “Crosswyn,” Walton-on-Thames, Surrey on 30 March 1917, aged 52, at which time his business address was 46, Queen Victoria Street, London, EC. On 8 February 1942, the Japanese crossed the Johore Straits in strength, landing at the mouth of the Kranji River within two miles of the place where the war cemetery where Francis at rest now stands. On the evening of 9 February, they launched an attack between the river and the causeway. During the next few days fierce fighting ensued, which in many cases was hand to hand, until greatly numerically superior Japanese forces and air strength necessitated a withdrawal by the defenders of Singapore. Whilst carrying out the research on Francis, the transcriber of these brief commemorations located a small obituary notice of Francis, which said that he had been killed in action on 13 February 1942. Francis had served in the Federated Malay States Volunteer Force, as the direct result of the "Compulsory Service (Volunteer Force) Ordinance 1940" which had been passed in June 1940 in Singapore, and almost immediately thereafter in the Federated Malay States, Johore, Kedah and Kelantan, and which covered ‘Volunteers’ in the age range from 19 to 55, in what was a potentially large sweep of nationalities. An Ordinance immediately following it was for "Volunteer Training," empowering widespread call-up for training purposes. On 2 July 1940 the British Governor; Sir Shenton Thomas, who was responsible to Secretary of State for the Colonies, used his powers to proclaim that the Compulsory Ordinance would only be applicable to every male British subject and British protected person. Sir Shenton then significantly adjusted the age range to between 18 and 41. At the time of the surrender of Singapore on 15 February 1942 there were more than 18,000 Volunteers in the armed forces, most of who were imprisoned as military personnel, although some were imprisoned as civilians along with many non-native women and children who had not been able to escape from Singapore.

SINCLAIR, ALBERT HARRY. Warrant Officer Class I (R.S.M.), 7871075. 4th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 27 May 1940. Aged 38. Born Isle of Thanet, Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent. Son of Harry Sinclair and Minnie Rose Sinclair (née Foord). Husband of Mildred Sinclair (née Richardson) of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Buried St. James’s Cemetery, Dover, Kent. Grave Ref: Row J. Grave 38. Also commemorated on the Canterbury, Kent civic war memorial. Pre war member of the Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. Albert had served in the Royal Tank Regiment since 1920. Albert’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1902. His marriage to Mildred Richardson was registered in the Richmond, Yorkshire, Registration District during the first quarter of 1934. Albert’s death was registered in the Dover, Kent, Registration District during the second third of 1940, where he died in hospital of the wounds which he had received in France serving in the
British Expeditionary Force. At the commencement of the Second World War, Albert’s battalion was stationed at Farnborough, Hampshire as part of the 1st Army Tank Brigade. On 18 September 1939, the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps was posted to serve in France and Belgium in the General Head Quarters, British Expeditionary Force. During the Fall of France in May 1940, the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps was amongst the 74 tanks of the 1st Army Tank Brigade, which took part in the action at Arras, Pas de Calais on 21 May 1940, when as part of ‘Frankforce’ along with the 7th Royal Tank Regiment, and the 6th and 8th Battalions of the Durham Light Infantry, they attacked General Erwin Rommel’s 7th Panzer Division, during the course of which Erwin Rommel nearly lost his life. The attack in which Albert would have almost certainly taken part in, was of huge significance, and so fierce that elite German 7th Panzer Division believed it had been attacked by five infantry divisions. The attack had also made the German commanders nervous, and it may well have been one of the contributory factors for the surprise German halt on 24 May 1940, that gave the British Expeditionary Force the slimmest of opportunities to begin the now famous evacuation from Dunkirk and the other ports. Both the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps and the 7th Royal Tank Regiment suffered a high number of casualties in the number of deaths, woundings and destroyed armour in France, and as the result of same, two days prior to Albert’s death, the 4th Royal Tank Regiment, amalgamated with the 7th Royal Tank Regiment to form the 4th/7th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. Both battalions had been amongst the eight pre Second World War regular battalions of the regiment, and were both part of the 1st Army Tank Brigade. In September 1940, only four months after the 4th/7th Royal Tank Regiment was formed, both battalions resumed their independence and also former titles. The majority of the 356 Second World War burials at St. James’s Cemetery, Dover, are contained in a special war graves plot at the far end of the cemetery. The plot, know as the Dunkirk plot, contains many graves from the Dunkirk operation including that of Albert. 22 of these burials are unidentified.

Son of David Algernon Smith and Rebecca Smith of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
At the time of his death, Stuart was serving with 180 Squadron, Royal Air Force attached to 139 Wing of the 2nd Tactical Air Force. 139 Wing was comprised 98 and 180 Squadrons, Royal Air Force and 320 Squadron of the Royal Dutch Navy, and was tasked with supporting Allied troops prior to, and after D-Day on 6 June 1944. Following the D-Day landings it also flew some night intruder missions in support of the push out of Normandy. In October 1944 the squadron moved into Belgium, from where it continued to support the advancing armies and at the time of Stuart’s it was based at Melsbroek airfield near Brussels, in
order to extend the range of the missions which were flown into Germany. On 21
March 1945, twelve B25 Mitchell bombers of 180 Squadron took off from
Melsbroek, as part of a formation of bombers detailed to raid the marshallings
years at the small town of Bocholt, Germany, just to the east of the river Rhine.
During the raid six aircraft were shot down, two of which were from 180
Squadron both hit by anti-craft fire over the target area. On the night of 21/22
March 1945, 131 Lancasters and 12 Mosquitos of Nos.1 and 8 Groups carried
out an accurate attack on the Benzol plant at Bochum during the course of which
1 Lancaster was lost. The Operations Record Book of 180 Squadron, Royal Air
Force entry appertaining to the raid on Bocholt contains the following Intelligence
Report which states:- "Twelve of our aircraft took off to attack this target,
(Bocholt) with the object of destroying rolling stock and disrupting
communications. Some bombs were seen to burst on the target. Intense
accurate flak was experienced in target area, and one aircraft was seen to
receive a direct hit whilst releasing its bombs. An explosion followed. Another
aircraft was seen with its port engine in flames and a large hole in its fuselage
believed as a result of this explosion. Two of our aircraft were reported missing."
Although Stuart’s primarily role whilst flying was that of a Wireless Operator/Air
Gunner, after being commissioned as a Flying Officer, R.A.F. (V.R.) in mid
December 1944, he had been posted to the Royal Air Force Film Production Unit
at Pinewood Studios, Iver Heath Buckinghamshire. Although Stuart’s civilian life
prior to his enlistment in 1942 has not been fully ascertained by the transcriber of
these brief commemorations, it would seem highly likely that he had more than a
passing interest in photography, as the cameramen of the British Army Film and
Photographic Unit, and those of the Royal Air Force Film Production Unit were
‘average snappers.’ In his secondary role as a Photographer, Stuart had possibly
filmed a number of raids that were carried out by Royal Air Force Bomber
Command over enemy territory. At the commencement of the Second World
War, Britain had not a single ‘official’ cameraman in uniform, unlike the well-
prepared French and Germans. It was only after a campaign mounted by the
British Ministry of Information, ably assisted by a civilian public relations
professional inside the War Office and Air Ministry were obliged to form an
expanded version of the Army Film and Photographic Unit, and the Royal Air
Force Film Production Unit, which were formed in October and September 1941
respectively. The major argument of the campaign had been helped to a large
extent, by a film compiled from captured and pirated German newsreels, which
clearly illustrated the extensive facilities the German services gave their
numerous cameramen operating on the land, at sea and in the air. The film was
provocatively titled ‘Film as a Weapon,’ when Britain (March 1941) had precious
few other weapons. The Army immediately recruited a section of thirty
cameramen and photographers from serving soldiers who had been invited to
volunteer, if they had any peacetime experience of film or photography, however
slight. This second generation of combat cameramen were all given the rank of
Sergeant. Not to be outdone, the Royal Air Force quickly formed its own Film
Production Unit, and much of its films can still be seen at a number of locations,
including the R.A.F. Museum at Hendon, and at the Imperial War Museum.
SMITH, WILFRED EVELYN. Corporal, CH/16655.
Royal Marines, H.M.S. President III.
Died Wednesday 28 January 1942. Aged 49.
Born Brockenhurst, Hampshire 28 March 1892.
Husband of Florence Maud Smith (née Mungeam) of 38, New Street, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire.
Buried The Gibraltar (North Front) Cemetery, Gibraltar.
At the time of the 1901 census, Wilfred resided at 4, Flint Cottages, Stone, Dartford, Kent. The census enumerator recorded him as being the nephew of the head of the house; 52-year-old Faversham, Kent native Thomas Dane who was employed as a Carter by a General Contractor. Wilfred originally enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, Chatham Division at Southampton, Hampshire on Wednesday 23 February 1910. At the time of enlisting he stated that he was employed as a Garden Boy, and named his father Frederick Thomas Smith of Woodland Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire as his next of kin. Wilfred’s father later resided at Island View, Manchester Road, Sway, Lymington, Hampshire whilst he was still officially Wilfred’s next of kin. It was probably as the result of his father’s death, that Wilfred’s sister Mrs. Annie Christmas on 805, Harrow Road, Harlesden Road, London, NW10 was recorded as being his next of kin, and her house was also noted as being his home address. Wilfred carried out his initial service as a member of “E” Company, at the Royal Marines Depot, Deal, Kent. He obtained his 3rd Class School Certificate at Deal on Tuesday 14 June 1910. The first ship that Wilfred served on was the 13,160 ton Canopus class battleship H.M.S. Goliath, which he joined at Chatham, Kent on Thursday 2 March 1911 at which time she was being refitted at the dockyard, prior to her being moved to Sheerness, Kent. The next ship that Wilfred served on was the 15,000 ton Formidable class battleship H.M.S. London, on Tuesday 17 February 1914, he left H.M.S. London and the following day joined the 17,500 ton King Edward VII class battleship H.M.S. Africa. He was serving on H.M.S. Africa at the commencement of the Great War on Tuesday 4 August 1914. All of Wilfred’s Great War service was whilst he was on H.M.S. Africa, during which time, like many other ships she had to have a number of refits. At the commencement of the Great War, H.M.S. Africa was in the 3rd Battle Squadron which was assigned to the Grand Fleet and based at Rosyth, Scotland. It was used to supplement the Grand Fleet’s cruisers on the Northern Patrol. On Monday 2 November 1914, the 3rd Battle Squadron was detached to reinforce the Channel Fleet and was based at Portland, Dorset, but it was then returned to the Grand Fleet on Friday 13 November 1914. H.M.S. Africa then served in the Grand Fleet until April 1916, undergoing a minor refit at Belfast in December 1915 and January 1916. During sweeps by the fleet, H.M.S. Africa and her sister ships often steamed at the heads of divisions of the far more valuable Dreadnought battleships, where they could protect the Dreadnoughts by their lookouts watching for mines, or if failing to spot the mines by being the first ships to strike them. On Saturday 29 April 1916, the 3rd Battle Squadron was relocated to Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey, Kent where Wilfred’s ship arrived on Tuesday 2 May 1916. The day after H.M.S.
Africa arrived at Sheerness, the 3rd Battle Squadron was separated from the Grand Fleet, at which time it was transferred to the Nore Command. H.M.S. Africa remained there with the squadron until August 1916, when she then began a refit at Portsmouth Dockyard which was completed the following month. Following her time spent at Southampton, H.M.S. Africa left the 3rd Battle Squadron and she was transferred to the Adriatic where a British squadron had reinforced the Italian Navy, during some of its battles with the ships of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, following Italy's entry into the war in 1915. H.M.S. Africa left the Adriatic sector in January 1917 in order for her to undergo a refit at Gibraltar. During the refit the 6-inch guns on her main deck were replaced with four 6-inch guns on the deck above, because the design fault of the original placement of the guns had resulted in them being drenched with corroding seawater in all but the calmest of weather. At the completion of the work at Gibraltar in March 1917, H.M.S. Africa was attached to the 9th Cruiser squadron, and served in the Atlantic Patrol and was primarily engaged escort duties. Mainly in station at Sierra Leone, Wilfred’s ship escorted convoys between Sierra Leone and Cape Town, South Africa, prior to having a refit at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during December 1917 and January 1918. In October 1918 with the Great War in its final throes, H.M.S. Africa returned to the United Kingdom and went into reserve at Portsmouth in November 1918, which is when Wilfred left her. He was then placed on General Duties within the Chatham Division, and following the church parade on Sunday 25 July 1920 he was presented with his 1914-15 Star for his service during the Great War. Wilfred served on General Duties within the Chatham Division until Monday 23 August 1920, when he joined the 4,190 ton C class light cruiser H.M.S. Calypso. Wilfred served on H.M.S. Calypso until Sunday 21 June 1925, and whilst he serving on her, Wilfred was presented with his War Medal and Victory Medal on Thursday 12 July 1923. Following his service on H.M.S. Calypso he then spend a period of service on the staff of the Chatham Division Head Quarters until Wednesday 22 June 1927, and during the time spent with the latter, Wilfred had served as a Cook at the Royal Marines Sergeants Mess until Thursday 28 April 1927. On the completion of his tour of duty at the Chatham Division Head Quarters, Wilfred joined the 33,500 ton Revenge class battleship H.M.S. Royal Oak, on which he served until New Years Eve 1927. The day after leaving H.M.S. Royal Oak, Wilfred went back to serve on the staff of the Chatham Division Head Quarters until the termination of his service in the Royal Marines on Friday 27 March 1931. Wilfred was enrolled as a member of the Royal Fleet Reserve on the day after he had left the Royal Marines. Wilfred married 32 year old Strood, Kent native Miss Florence Maud Mungeam in the Isle of Thanet, Kent area in 1937. He died of an illness at the British Military Hospital at Gibraltar, as opposed to having been killed in action or dying of wounds. Prior to his death, Wilfred had added another medal to those for his service in the Royal Marines during the Great War, and his Naval Long Service & Good Conduct Medal, when he then became a recipient of the Royal Fleet Reserve Long Service & Good Conduct Medal. (Medal No.19565).
STEERS, NORMAN EDWARD. Sapper, 14454211.
Royal Engineers.
Born and resided Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of Frederick Percy Steers and Louisa Steers (née Fright) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Buried Margate Cemetery, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Grave Ref: Section F. Grave 328.

Norman’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1924. He died of an illness as opposed to having died as the direct result of enemy action, whilst he was a patient at the Emergency War Hospital in the village of Winwick, Cheshire, near Warrington, Lancashire. His death was registered in the Newton, Lancashire, Registration District. The Steers family made the arrangements for his body to be returned home for burial locally, as opposed to him being laid to rest in the Cheshire/Lancashire area.
STEWART, DONALD CECIL CLIVE. Writer, P/MX 58102.
Royal Navy, H.M.S. Royal Oak. (08).
Died Saturday 14 October 1939. Aged 19.
Son of Edward Joseph and Louisa May Stewart of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
The Royal Sovereign class battleship H.M.S. Royal Oak was built at Devonport Dockyard, Plymouth, and commissioned on 1 May 1916. At 0116 hours on Saturday 14 October 1939, the German submarine U-47 commanded by 31 year old Kapitänleutnant, Günther Prien, fired a spread of three torpedoes at H.M.S. Royal Oak which was commanded by Captain William Gordon Benn, R.N., and at the British seaplane tender H.M.S. Pegasus lying at anchor in the harbour of Scapa Flow. He then turned the U-47 around and fired a stern torpedo at 0121 hours. Günther Prien had misidentified the seaplane tender as H.M.S. Repulse and claimed a hit, but a torpedo apparently hit the starboard anchor chain of the battleship and did not damage the ships. At 0123 hours, Günther Prien fired a second spread of three torpedoes that hit Donald’s ship on the starboard side and caused a magazine to blew up. The battleship rolled over and sank in 19 minutes. The ship complement at the time of her loss, numbered 1208 officers and ratings, 833 of them were killed and there were 375 survivors. For his outstanding feat of arms in sinking H.M.S. Royal Oak, Kapitänleutnant (later Korvettenkapitän), Günther Prien became the first of the Second World War German submarine commanders to be awarded the Knights Cross, which he received on 18 October 1939. Having been awarded the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves on 20 October 1940, Günther Prien was promoted to the rank of Korvettenkapitän on 1 March 1941, but lost his life only a few days later on Friday 7 March 1941 in the North Atlantic.

STRINGER, ROYSTON JAMES. Private, 6286955.
4th (Territorial Army) Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
Died 8 June 1940. Aged 21.
Born and resided Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Son of James Stringer and Louie Stringer (née Norris) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France. Column 38, as shown above.
Pre war member of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Royston’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the second quarter of 1919. Unfortunately it has not been possible thus far to ascertain where or how Royston died. Brief details appertaining to the 4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) on 8 June 1940 follow, and although it was probably during the course of those events that Royston lost his life, he might of course have died of wounds received on an earlier date, or due to an illness. At the commencement of the Second World War, the 4th (Territorial Army) Battalion, The Buffs (Royal
East Kent Regiment), was commanded by the former Queen’s Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) Great War hero, Lieutenant-Colonel Donald John Dean, V.C., T.D., who commanded the battalion from 20 March 1936 to 9 November 1939. The battalion was embodied at Canterbury, Kent, as part of the 133 (Kent and Sussex) Infantry Brigade. For the first six weeks of the war the battalion was engaged on Home Defense duties within the county of Kent. The battalion was then selected for service in France, and moved to Aldershot, Hampshire which was destined to be the last place that the battalion served together for a long time. On 19 November 1939, command of the battalion was passed to Lieutenant-Colonel F. A. J. E. Marshall, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., who was in command until 13 December 1941, and was the former Brigade Major of the 133 (Kent and Sussex) Infantry Brigade. Whilst it was at Aldershot, the battalion was transferred to the 23 Brigade which was commanded by Brigadier William Havelock Ramsden, (who later became a Major-General, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.), the other battalions in the 23 Brigade were the 4th Battalion, Border Regiment, and the 2nd/5th (Territorial Army) Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment). On 17 November 1939, the 4th Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) left Aldershot and went to Southampton, from where it embarked for France later the same day and arrived at the port of Cherbourg the following day. At Cherbourg the fragmentation of the battalion in France commenced when “A” Company, commanded by Captain E.W. Tassell was detached from the battalion and put to use as lines of communication troops. The battalion was still split at the time of the time of the German offensive on 10 May 1940, and it was not until 18 may that orders were received for the battalion to concentrate at Nantes. From Nantes the battalion at which time comprised of 34 officers and 748 other ranks, travelled by train to Alizay near Rouen. As with all the other units of the British Expeditionary Force post 10 May 1940, the battalion made a number of changes in location and it was at Eu, Seine-Maritime, when on the morning of Saturday 8 June 1940, in anticipation of a projected advance by 23 Brigade, which was by then commanded by Brigadier M.A. Green, Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall was ordered to send out strong fighting patrols to infiltrate the German positions. If the patrols were successful the battalion was then to follow up, and accordingly three patrols were sent out. No sooner had the patrols gone out, when the battalion then received fresh orders from the Brigadier that it was to be withdrawn, but to wait until nightfall. The difficult and dangerous job of contacting the three patrols was given to Major D. P. Iggulden, who with his small party managed to make contact with the three patrols, but had encountered enemy opposition whilst doing so. That evening, Major-General Sir Victor Morven Fortune K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., commanding the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division ordered the withdrawal of his division and 23 Brigade. Resultant of the order to withdraw, enemy troops arrived in greatly superior strength, including armour, which resulted in casualties amongst the battalion as it made the long march to the villages of Sauchy and Graincourt where it arrived the following morning and was ordered “to hold on to the last man.” It would seem likely that Royston was one of the men who fell whilst fighting at the village of Eu, in the steep sided valley of the Bresle River.
TERRY, ROBERT HALL. Flight Sergeant, 1807246.
Born and resided Kent.
Son of Jessie L. M. Terry (née Hall) of Croydon, Surrey.
Commemorated on the Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta. G.C.
Robert’s birth was registered in the Thanet, Kent, Registration District during the
third quarter of 1923. Prior to serving in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve,
Robert had been an active member of the Air Training Corps since March 1941.
His death was as the result of an air accident, as opposed to enemy action. 624
Squadron, Royal Air Force in which Robert served was a Special Duties
Squadron, and due to same researching the squadron, including casualties is
more difficult than that of conventional squadrons. Documented records of 624
Squadron are very limited due to the secrecy of the work it was involved in and
most orders and instructions appertaining to it were single copy and hand written.
The records commence on 28 May 1943, when the 1575(Special Duties) Flight
was formed at R.A.F. Tempsford, Sandy, Bedfordshire, equipped with 4 Halifax
and 2 Ventura aircraft. The following week the squadron was transferred to
R.A.F. Maison Blanche, Algeria. On 13 June 1943 the squadron commenced
operations over Corsica, with Halifax EB141 piloted by Flight Lieutenant
Ruttledge and over Sardinia EB140 piloted by Flight Lieutenant Austin who at
that time was Commanding Officer, while the maritime section of the flight moved
to R.A.F. Blida, Algeria, and until September continued Special Duties sorties
over Sardinia and the Italian mainland. On 7 September 1943, all personnel,
equipment and aircraft were transferred to R.A.F. Blida, where 1575 Flight was
disbanded and 624 (SD) Squadron R.A.F. was formed under the command of
Wing Commander Clive Stanley George Stanbury D.S.O., D.F.C. With an
establishment of eighteen Halifaxes and two Ventura’s, drops were made over
France, Italy, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, and early in 1944, the B-17s of
the 122nd Squadron United States Army Air Force were attached for similar
missions. The main missions of 624 (SD) Squadron, R.A.F. were to support the
Special Operations Executive and other Allied infiltrated forces with aerial
transport, to provide intelligence gathering during its flights, to drop agents and
supplies directly behind enemy lines, and also to drop leaflets with Allied
propaganda. In order to accomplish these missions, the squadrons’ aircrew often
flew as low as 200 to 300 feet over mountainous terrain, and the squadron also
had a secondary bombing role when circumstances permitted. To ensure the
accurate delivery of equipment and personnel, Wing Commander Stanbury
would have his new crews practice parachuting stores at low level in the garden
of his private quarters, at first during the day and then at night as they became
more proficient. The bases of Robert’s squadron were located in several different
geographical locations, and its detachments were often moved to advanced
bases for operations behind enemy lines. Aircraft, ground crew and pilots were
based on Algeria (for operations over Southern France, Corsica and Sardinia),
on Protville (Tunisia, for operations over Yugoslavia) and on Malta (for operations
over Czechoslovakia). On 21 November 1943, the squadron moved to Brindisi in Southern Italy as part of 334 (Special Duties) Wing, Mediterranean Allied Air Force from here it operated over the Balkans and Northern Italy. Robert’s squadron always operated under extremely difficult conditions, with shortage of strength in aircrew, aircraft and transport vehicles. It was usual practice that due to the high level of secrecy and security of the work involved, only the flights navigator knew the exact location of the drop zone, or the complete orders for the operations. Whilst attempting to ascertain more information appertaining to Robert’s death which was as the result of an air accident, the transcriber noted the deaths of two other members of his squadron which also occurred on Wednesday 13 September 1944. The two casualties were 20 year old Flight Sergeant James Henry Russell Platt R.A.F. (V.R.) of Glasgow, Scotland, who like Robert is commemorated on the Malta Memorial, Valletta, Malta. G.C., and 20 year old Flight Sergeant (Wireless Operator/Air Gunner), Thomas Percival Owen R.A.F. (V.R.) of Dagenham, Essex is at rest at Dely Ibrahim War Cemetery, Algeria. Although only supposition on the part of the transcriber of these brief commemorations, and should be viewed as such, but it would seem likely that all three casualties were crew members of the same Halifax bomber.

TURNER, ERNEST VICTOR. Trooper, 1433854. 3rd King’s Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 10 April 1941. Aged 27. Born Kent. Resided Canterbury, Kent. Son of George Jedwell Turner and Florence Catherine Turner of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent. Buried Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya. Grave Ref: 3. F. 9. Pre war Territorial Army member of the Royal Armoured Corps. German General Erwin Rommel arrived in North Africa on 13 February 1941, with the Afrika Korps and the Italian Ariete armoured division. These Axis forces were equipped with the Panzer MK III & MK IV tanks, that were significantly superior to the tanks with which the British were equipped, and the Afrika Korps also brought with it the deadly 88mm dual-purpose gun. Most of the Axis forces disembarked at Tripoli, Libya by 11 March 1941. Following the success at Beda Fomm, the Allies felt that they could hold the new front line without further reinforcements, and even considered an advance to Tripoli, thereby securing the Libyan shore, but the arrival of General Rommel put a stop to the latter. General Sir Richard Nugent O’Connor, G.C.B., D.S.O. M.C., A.D.C. had returned to Cairo for a rest, handing 13 Corps over to Faversham, Kent native General Philip Neame, V.C. K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., K.St.J. The British advance had halted at Mersa El Brega gap, between the desert and the coast, just to the east of El Aghelia, and it was here that Rommel struck on 31 March 1941, with the Italians supported by 120 MK III and MK IV tanks. With the British 7th Armoured Division refitting in the Nile Delta, the forward positions were held by scattered elements of the British 2nd Armoured Division, and despite the determination of the British to stop them, the Germans Panzer III and IV’s tanks cut through the inferior British tanks with comparative ease, whilst being assisted by the Luftwaffe. With one of its two
Armoured Brigades in Greece, the 2nd Armoured Division fell back on Antelat, having been forced out of Mersa El Brega, by the Afrika Corps, and by 3 April the Allies were in full retreat. The 3rd Armoured Brigade, 2nd Armoured Division consisted of 3rd King's Own Hussars, the 5th and 6th Royal Tank Regiments, but Ernest's regiment was re-equipping with captured M-13's when the attack commenced. The 5th Royal Tank Regiment was equipped with British Cruiser tanks, and the 6th Royal Tank Regiment with captured enemy M-13's. With many of the tanks in the workshops, its total fighting strength was only approximately 52 tanks, it being effectively the strength of just one armoured regiment. Erwin Rommel's forces took Benghazi on 3 April, and as if to add too the Allies woes, on 6 April an enemy motor cycle patrol captured General O'Connor, General Neame and the newly promoted Brigadier John Combe, formerly of the 11th Hussars. 3rd King's Own Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps with its captured enemy M-13's had communication problems as the refit of the captured M-13's was not complete, and in addition to which there was a shortage of diesel fuel to power them. In much the same way, the 6th Royal Tank Regiment also experienced the same major problems as those encountered by Ernest's regiment. Resultant of the problems which were being encountered, by 6 April many of the captured M-13's from both regiments had been abandoned and destroyed due to mechanical breakdowns, with some of the 3rd King's Own Hussars tanks being handed over to 'C' Squadron, 6th Royal Tank Regiment whose personnel thankfully had at least had been trained on them, with both 'A' and 'B' Squadrons of 6th Royal Tank Regiment being lorried mounted by 7 April. On 7 April the commander, and most of the 2nd Armoured Division surrendered at Mechili, with the Australian 9th Division withdrawing to Tobruk on 9 April, along with elements of 3 Royal Horse Artillery to provide anti-tank defence. What was left of the 3rd Armoured Brigade was ordered to fall back on Tobruk, where the 6th Royal Tank Regiment were to collect 18 light tanks. By now its strength was comprised of 14 officers and 124 other ranks in Ernest's regiment 5th RTR; 9 officers and 100 other ranks in the 5th Royal Tank Regiment, and 9 officers and 150 other ranks in the 6th Royal Tank Regiment. By midday on 8 April those units of 3rd Armoured Brigade which had concentrated in the staging camp, were moved by lorries to the underground magazines to the east of Tobruk. The Commanding Officer of the 6th Royal Tank Regiment was made the officer in charge of this formation, who then quickly proceeded to organise a mobile reserve of riflemen which was comprised of the tank crews and ancillary personnel. The "riflemen" were formed into four companies; one was formed by Ernest's regiment, one by the 6th Royal Tank Regiment, and two which were comprised of 5th Royal Tank Regiment. These troops were mounted in lorries and could be rushed to any locality where danger threatened. All of the light tanks that had been collected were organised into a small Force HQ. It is almost certain the Ernest had lost his life whilst serving in the role of lorried infantry, as opposed to having died whilst fighting with his tank. Two days after Ernest died; Bardia was captured, with Sollum and Fort Capuzzo falling the next day. In just two days Rommel and his Afrika Corps assisted by their Italian allies had driven the British out of Libya, apart the beleaguered fortress of Tobruk.
Son of Albert Charles Tyrie and of Mary Jane Tyrie (née Watts) of Westgate-on-Sea, Isle of Thanet, Kent.
Commemorated on the Lowestoft Naval Memorial. Panel 6, Column 1.
Edwin’s birth was registered in the West Ham, Essex, Registration District during the third quarter of 1921. The 515 ton yacht Rosabelle on which Edwin was serving at the time of his death was built in 1901 by Ramage & Ferguson Ltd, of Leith, for wealthy stockbroker Theodore Pim, and she was the second of the five vessels which he owned that Theodore named Rosabelle. During the Great War the Rosabelle on which Edwin served had been requisitioned for use as patrol yacht by the Admiralty, and at that time she was armed with one 3inch and two 6 pounder guns. In September 1939 she was again taken over by the Admiralty and had initially been used as armed boarding vessel in 1940, before being put to use as patrol yacht as she had been during the earlier conflict. At 0421 hours on 11 December 1941, the 477 ton Royal Navy A/S trawler H.M.S. Lady Shirley, commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Arthur H. Callaway, D.S.O., R.A.N.V.R. of Dover Heights, New South Wales, Australia, was hit by one torpedo fired from the German uboat U-374, and she exploded and sank with the loss of all hands. Edwin’s ship, which was commanded by Lieutenant Hercules S. Findlay, R.N.R., of Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland tried to locate the U-374, but unfortunately the submarine located H.M. Yacht Rosabelle first, and she was too was torpedoed at 0442 hours and sank in the Straits of Gibraltar, with the loss of her commander, 2 other officers and 27 ratings. 3 officers and 9 ratings survived the sinking. Commanding the U-374 had been Oberleutnant zur See, Unno von Fischel who was a native of Kiel, Germany, and the son of Admiral Hermann von Fischel. At the time of the losses of H.M. Yacht Rosabelle and H.M.S. Lady Shirley, the U-374 was on its second active patrol having left the port of Brest on 6 December 1941, and returned on 14 December. Unno von Fischel and all but one of his crew perished, when the U-374 was sunk by the Royal Navy submarine H.M.S. Unbeaten, which was commanded by Lieutenant-Commander E.A. Woodward, D.S.O., R.N. on 12 January 1942. Admiral Hermann von Fischel retired from the Kriegsmarine in December 1944 but was captured by the Russians and died in a prisoner of war camp on 13 May 1950. All of the five yachts named Rosabelle owned by Theodore Pim were kept by him on the river Colne at Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex over a period spanning 54 years. Theodore Pim resided at Snowdenham Hall, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, from 1907 until his death in 1927, and was a very generous benefactor within the community. Prior to moving to Bramley, Theodore and his wife Ann had resided at Martens Grove, Crayford, Kent. A keen sailor, Theodore became the Commodore of the Royal Thames Yacht Club in 1904, and he was elected to the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1910. A model of the second Rosabelle on which Edwin served is still on display in the Royal Thames Yacht Club club-house at 60, Knightsbridge, London. The name Rosabelle has also been remembered by having the name given to a road off The Avenue, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex.
British Legion Memorial
"Lest We Forget"
1914 - 1918.

Ball C.
Beal R.W.
Bennett H.B.
Blows N.W.
Brams J. D.C.M.
Champs B.
Champs J. A.
Coleman P.
Colegrave C. Manby.
Cozens Brooke J.C.
Dadds T.W.
Denny D.W.
Dunn C.A.
Dyke C.J.
Eede A.J.
Evans A.D.
Forester W.
Fright E.N.
Fright F.W.
Gilbert J.H.
Harrow R.W.T.
Heaton I.W.
Heyburn W.T.
Hoare H.
Horn F.
Howard R.
Howland W.
Humphrey E.W.H.
Hunter E.K.
Jones L.J.
Kemp W.J.T.
Kenrick H.W.M.
Kesby W.W.
King W.
Laver F.R.
Leaughton H.
Luck E.J.
Luck G. D.C.M.
Luck F.
Manders H.F.
March W.P.C.
Marsh T.H.
Measures A.R.
Molesworth C.W.M.
Moor C.
Morgan A.C.W.
Perrins D.S.
Pointer W.
Pointer F.J.
Potter F.H.
Potter H.H.
Price C.
Price T.I.
Price H.H.
Raines F.M.
Randall T.W.
Richardson R.J.C.
Robbins W.B.
Rogers L.N.
Sadler E.H.
Sandwell V.T.
Saunders R.G.
Solly C.
Staveley M.
Stokes E.A.
Stoneham C.C.
Thurley A.C.
Tollemache A.H.W.
Tyler A.H.
Walk E.J.
Waller H.E.
Ward C.T.S.
Ward W.H.
Washington H.W.
Watson J.
Williams A.E.
Williams H.H.
Wilson E.R.
Woodward R.
IN MEMORY
 ALSO OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE 1939-1945 WAR THIS TABLET WAS
 ERECTED BY THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES OF THE BOROUGH OF MARGATE
 A.D. 1951

APPLEBY T.        DUFF R.        LYNAS C.        STEERS N. E.
BALDWIN E. C.     HAMBIDGE H. W. C. PELL D. B.        STEWART D. C. C.
BAX S. C.         JARMAN A. R.     PRICE R. D.        STRINGER R.
BUSHHELL D.       JEFCOATE B.      SETTERFIELD B. L. TERRY R. H.
CLARK F. C.       JOHNSTONE J. F.   SINCLAIR A. H.  TURNER T. V.
COOK S. C. W. B.  JOHNSTONE P.      SMITH S. J.   TYRRE E. C.
DOWLING R.        LANCHBERY P. E.   SMITH W. E.   SAVAGE M.
SHRIMPTON F. B.